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VOYAGES AND TRAVELS,

IN THE YEARS 1809, 1810, AND 1811;

Literary Society of Bombay

CONTAINING

STATISTICAL, COMMERCIAL, AND MISCELLANEOUS

OBSERVATIONS

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ON

GIBRALTAR, SARDINIA, SICILY, MALTA,

SERIGO, AND TURKEY.

BY JOHN GALT.

LONDON:

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PREFACE

THIS Work is part of a design which I had formed, of giving such an account of the Countries connected with the Mediterranean, as would tend to familiarise them to the British Public. It will appear sufficiently evident, in many places, that a great part has been printed from the original Notes. I am not aware that this will be regarded as a fault, although it may expose me to the animadversions of verbal criticism. But I ought to apologise for publishing, unamplified, a number of remarks, which were noted down, as hints for dissertations. I was apprehensive that my Book would have been enlarged, without being augmented with information; and I would rather that it were thought defective in disquisition, than deficient in facts which suggest reflections.

I considered myself bound to be more minute, relative to the modes and circumstances of travelling, than, perhaps, may be deemed conformable to the title of the Book:—because the treatment which strangers receive, in any country, furnishes a topic connected with its domestic economy, and that kind of knowledge which is useful to the Merchant and Politician, as well as amusing to the general Reader.

Classical inquiries formed no part of the objects of my journeys. My obscure gropings, therefore, at the elucidation of ancient mythology, should be received with indulgence. They may amuse the learned; and they serve to vary the narrative to the less accurate reader.

I trust that the papers in the APPENDIX will not be regarded as inserted to swell the volume. The statement of the productions of Sicily was not made without industrious inquiry. Nor will the utility of the other two papers, relative to that island, be disputed. The Eclogue I hesitated about inserting. It was written at Cape Passero, under a lively impression of the peculiarities of the Sicilian peasantry. What-

ever may be the poetical defects, it will, probably, not be found incorrect as a delineation. The documents relative to the projects of the French are more than curious; and those explanatory of the processes of dying Turkey red, though not new, will have their use, from being exhibited together.

The political opinions, occasionally introduced, have not been delivered without reflection. The importance of Malta to this country, first impressed on the public mind by the Star newspaper, will be enforced by the incidental notices in the following pages. Reflecting, in that island, on the influence of a free press over the operations of states, I was induced to interweave those remarks, in the text, which occurred to me, from seeing so central a station neglected to be made a fulcrum to that powerful engine.

In the prosecution of the objects partly disclosed in this volume, I consider myself as under many obligations to several of our public officers. To Mr. Hill, our Envoy at the Court of Cagliari, I am indebted for much hospitality, and for a very ready offer, on his part, to facilitate my views, had I under-

taken the tour of the island. To Mr. Smith, Secretary of Legation there, I am particularly obliged, for the willingness with which he assisted my inquiries. Indeed, I esteem myself fortunate in having met with this very accomplished gentleman. In Palermo, Mr. Fagan, the Consul General, rendered me all the assistance I could desire; and I cannot omit here to mention the kindness of Signor Stirlingi, the Consul at Girgenti. For the privilege of wearing a British epaulet, this man executes all the drudgery attendant on the Malta packets, that land and receive the ambassador's dispatches, and the letters of the merchants and of the army. That such useful and necessary service should be unrequited, is a disgrace to the British nation. Mr. Canning, in Constantinople, evinced a very willing disposition to promote my objects, as far as his own influence extended; but the influence of the British minister is, in that capital, contracted by the strange importance allowed to the foreigners connected with the mission. I shall ever remember, with pleasure, the singular purity of his mind, contrasted with the character of the diplomatic offal in the Ottoman metro-

polis. Should the book reach his hands, he will discriminate the respect that is paid from a motive which had not its origin in considerations for his public situation, nor in return for any favours proposed or received.

The incidents of my first voyage to Greece will form a work by itself, and will afford me an opportunity of mentioning the names of other gentlemen from whom I received civilities.

LONDON,
1st January 1812.

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OBSERVATIONS

RELATIVE TO COUNTRIES CONNECTED WITH

THE MEDITERRANEAN.

THE Mediterranean affords access from the Atlantic ocean to the finest countries in the world. It washes that coast of Spain on which the principal ports of the kingdom are situated. It opens a great outlet to the South of France, and embraces the whole territory of Italy. No other space of equal extent presents so many famous cities, such opulent and populous lands, as are comprehended in the sweep of the Mediterranean, from Gibraltar to Venice.

From Venice to Constantinople, European Turkey, by numerous gulphs of the same waters, is penetrated to the interior; and by the straits of the Bosphorus, the navigation of the largest vessels may not only be extended to Russia, but nearly to the confines of the Persian empire. The whole of the rich tract of Asia Minor is bounded also by the Mediterranean, which, sweeping the coast of

Palestine, is separated from the Red Sea by a neck of land not half so broad as the distance between Manchester and London.

The Southern side of this great thoroughfare of so many nations is formed by the continent of Africa, comprehending the celebrated kingdom of Egypt, and the dominions of the Barbary powers.

Nor are the islands less eminent, comparatively, than the states by which it is surrounded. After Great Britain and Ireland, they are the richest, the most flourishing, and the most civilized in the world. Sicily, of all insular nations, must be considered as next in rank to Ireland.

From time immemorial, the shores of the Mediterranean have been the scenes of the greatest actions. On them the human mind has appeared with the brightest lustre. The highest excellence in art, and the largest discoveries in science, have been attained and achieved by their inhabitants. There is no portion of the globe so celebrated as the Mediterranean; and, whether considered as the field of curious research, or of commercial enterprise, it is undoubtedly the most interesting to which the attention of the British nation at present can be directed.

The condition of the vast population of the countries of the Mediterranean affords the prospect of a great market to our manufactures; and the state of civilization in many parts is so high, that even our own artists may yet be ambitious of entering into competition with theirs. Populous nations only furnish sure and regular markets to the merchant; and it is only of late that our manufactures have been brought to such a degree of excellence as to enable us to rival those of the chief Mediterranean nations. Political circumstances,

however, exclude us, at present, from this superior commerce with France and Italy; but, in looking forward to the epoch of peace, we may calculate on obtaining a larger share of the trade of those countries than we ever before possessed; not only by the excellence to which our commodities have been brought, but also from the interruptions and oppressions which the French and Italian artists of all descriptions have suffered from the events of the times.

The following observations, made in the course of two years' travelling, relate chiefly to the consideration of that commercial system which we seem to have insensibly adopted since we possessed ourselves of the island of Malta.

GIBRALTAR.

THE Bay of Gibraltar may be described as of a semi-oval form. It is about five miles in breadth between the town of Algesiras and the Rock, and probably of the same extent in the contrary direction. The mountains of Andalusia are seen rising at a distance, beyond the hill which has been called the Queen's seat ever since it was the station from which the infamous Queen of Spain surveyed the grand attack on the fortress, and witnessed the destruction of the floating batteries. On turning round, Apes-hill, opposite the mouth of the bay, forms a majestic central object, from the East and West sides of which interminable vistas of the African mountains are seen extending.

The fortress, undoubtedly, may be called stupendous, and may be regarded as impregnable; but it has not that degree of visible grandeur which its fame and the circumstances of its resistance in the last siege lead one to expect. The face of the rock is to the full as arid and rugged as can well be conceived. From the ship's deck not a spot of pasturage can be seen; and the few trees scattered among the buildings and along the ramparts, appear so stunted in their growth, and are usually so disguised with dust, that they may be considered rather as memorials than as specimens of vegetation. The town is situated behind the principal bastions, and rises in successive tiers of ordinary looking houses, a considerable way up the acclivity. The ruins of a Moorish castle on the shoulder of the rock, add an air of antiquity to its picturesque effect.

Strangers, on entering the works, are conducted by a sentinel to the town-major, from whom they receive a permit for passing the gates during the time they intend to stay. If they are properly introduced, they may also obtain permission to view the batteries and excavations.

In walking round the ramparts, different parts of the walls were pointed out to me, as covered with a composition, which, though only road-dust, pounded stone, and a little mortar mixed up with water, becomes as hard and as durable as stone — something like Wyatt's cement, with which the House of Lords is coated.

The population of the rock, exclusive of the garrison, may be computed at ten thousand souls. In the principal street, however, the throng is certainly very great; and were the appearance there to

be taken as the criterion, even twenty thousand could not be considered too high an estimate.

The motley multitude of Jews, Moors, Spaniards, &c. at the Mole, where the trading vessels lie, presented a new scene to me; nor was it easy to avoid thinking of the odious race of the Orang Outang, on seeing several filthy, bearded, bare-legged groupes huddled together in shady corners during the heat of the day. The languor occasioned by the heat appeared to have increased the silly expression of their faces; particularly of the Jews, who, notwithstanding the usual sinister cast of the Hebrew features, seemed here to be deplorably simple animals. Their females are entitled to any epithets but those which convey ideas of beauty or delicacy. A few may possibly be discovered, now and then, inclining towards comeliness, but so seldom, that it is no great injustice to call them, on the whole, superlatively ugly.

The town of Gibraltar possesses a charter, which being calculated for a place much inferior in size and importance to what it has become, is now, perhaps, rather limited. In criminal causes justice is administered according to the laws of England; but, as in the other colonies of the Empire, there are local peculiarities in settling civil disputes. Questions between debtors and creditors are referred to the Judge Advocate, and two respectable persons of property, from whose award an appeal may be made to the Governor. When the sum at issue exceeds three hundred pounds sterling, the Council at home may be appealed to, but when under this amount, the decision of the Governor is final.

The value of Gibraltar to the British Nation I had hitherto been

rather disposed to doubt, conceiving the expence of maintaining it to be fully equal to its utility. I had been led to form this opinion by considering the large force which it withheld from active service, and the little protection which, in the first years of the present war, it afforded to merchant vessels against the gun-boats of Algesiras; but a view of the place, and a better knowledge of local circumstances, have altered my opinion. In order, however, to render us effectually masters of the Straits, Ceuta on the African side must be made ours. Gibraltar may in many points be compared to a great guard-ship, the utility of which, without a supplementary fleet of small vessels, may be justly questioned; but, with such a fleet, no boat from Algesiras should be able to do any mischief to our trade, while no ship of the enemy could escape. The neglect of rendering the fortress in this way a point of offence, has perhaps tended to lower its value in the estimation of mercantile men. To the nation it is not a very expensive establishment. There are several noble families which perhaps cost the public as much. Between four and five thousand vessels annually touch at the rock either for trade, or in the course of their passage up and down the Straits. During the last twelve months the value of British goods sold here has been estimated at a million sterling. The net annual charge against the place is not more than fifty thousand pounds, of which sum thirty thousand pounds are expended on the works, and the remainder in payment of the officers' salaries. The disbursements, on account of the regiments which compose the garrison, are less than the expence of a fleet of men of war would be on this station, and the possession of such a place adds to the reputation of our

power with the neighbouring nations. Besides, the annual charge of fifty thousand pounds might, with little difficulty, be raised by a tax on the exports of the town, and an assessment on the inhabitants, who at present do not contribute any thing in return for the protection afforded them. The British nation never refused to pay the Sound duty to Denmark; why a toll should not also be levied by us I am at a loss to understand.

In Gibraltar there is a contemptible theatre, where strolling Spanish comedians sometimes perform. The garrison library is the only place of rational amusement for strangers, and there are few towns which have any thing comparable to it. The inns are mean, but the rate of the charges is abundantly magnificent. A dollar here passes under the name of a cob; and it is but a small matter that a cob can purchase.

SARDINIA.

During my passage from Gibraltar to Sardinia the heat, in the day-time, was excessive. After sunset the air became agreeably cool, and continued pleasant for two or three hours. As midnight approached, the heat was renewed. This alternation seemed to be regular.

Cagliari, the capital of this island, appears to have fallen greatly from what it has been in some more prosperous epoch of the Government. Many of the houses still show traces of Spanish

grandeur, but an air of ruin and decay is visible throughout the whole town. The streets are not more than twenty feet wide, and for their passable condition are evidently more indebted to the dry weather than to scavengers. I went into several of the churches, and in one of them saw a priest delivering an extemporaneous discourse with a respectable degree of dignity and force. In the Royal Chapel I had an opportunity of seeing Mass performed before the Court. The observations on the appearance of the town apply with peculiar propriety to the decorations of the ecclesiastical service. Every thing seemed to bear the marks of incurable decay.

The inhabitants of Sardinia (I speak of the common people) are yet scarcely above the negative point of civilization; perhaps it would be more correct to say that they appear to have sunk a certain way back into barbarism. They wear indeed linen shirts, fastened at the collar by a pair of silver buttons like hawks' bells; but their upper dress of shaggy goat-skins is in the pure savage style. A few have got one step nearer to perfectibility, and actually do wear tanned leather-coats, made somewhat in the fashion of the armour worn in Europe in the fifteenth century. With such durable habiliments it is easy to conceive that they do not require much assistance from the manufactures of foreign Countries.

The state of Society in Sardinia is probably not unlike what existed in Scotland about a hundred and fifty years ago. Family pride, a species of political scrophula, is in Sardinia particularly inveterate. But the exclusive spirit of the Nobles begins to be counteracted by the natural disposition of the Sovereign to extend his own authority. Many parts of the country are in, what a politician considers only

as an unsatisfactory state. In the district of Tempio this is greatly the case; the mountains are infested with banditti, and the villages are often at war with one another. A feudal animosity of this kind, which had lasted upwards of half a century, was lately pacified by the interference of a Monk. The armies of the two villages, amounting each to about four hundred men, were on an appointed day drawn out in order of battle, front to front, and musquets loaded. Not far from the spot the Monk had a third host prepared, consisting of his own brethren, with all the crucifixes and images that they could muster. He addressed the belligerents, stating the various sins and wrongs that they had respectively committed, and shewing that the period had arrived when their dispute should cease, for the account current of aggressions then balanced. The stratagem had the desired effect, and a general reconciliation took place. The Sardinians have yet much to learn, not only in civil intercourse, but in the delicacies that should attend it *.

The country is divided into prefectures. The Prefect is a lawyer, and is assisted by a military commandant, who furnishes the force required to carry his warrants into effect. This regulation has been made in the course of the present reign, and may be regarded as an important step towards the establishment of a public and regal authority over the baronial privileges. In the provinces justice is distributed by the Prefects, whose functions seem to correspond in

* A gentleman who had, a short time before my second visit to Cagliari, made the tour of the island, told me that on one occasion he requested a utensil of a particular description, and the pot in which his supper had been cooked was placed by his bedside.

many respects with those of the Scottish Sheriffs. When any particular case occurs in which the King considers it expedient to appoint a Judge of the Supreme Court in the Capital, on purpose to try the cause on the spot, wherever this extraordinary Justiciary passes, the provincial Courts of Justice are silent, and superseded by his presence. There are no periodical circuits of the Justices.

The Laws of Sardinia, civil as well as criminal, are contained in the *Carta di Logu*, which I believe consists of the record of local usages and practices; the *Reale Prammatica* and *Editti* e *Pregoni*, which emanated from the Kings of the house of Savoy, or from their Viceroys; and the *Carte Reale*, directed from time to time from the Sovereign to the Viceroy or to the *Real Udienza* of the Kingdom. If the cases agitated before the tribunals are not provided for in these codes, the Judges recur to the Roman Law.

The Judges receive a small stipend from the King, upon which they cannot subsist. They are allowed also a certain sum for each award that they deliver, which has the effect of making them greedy of jurisdiction, and interested in promoting revisions. The administration of justice is in consequence precarious, and gifts to the Judges are of powerful advocacy.

In a country where the Government has so little power in the detail of ruling, and where the rectitude of the Laws is so enfeebled by the chicane of the Courts, it is natural that the people should often surrender themselves to their bad passions. The Sards possess, to an eminent degree, the venerable savage virtue of hospitality. They are courageous, and think and act with a bold and military arrogance; but the impunity with which they may offend, fosters their

natural asperity. They are jealous of the Piedmontese; and on this account the King has not encouraged emigration from his late continental dominions to settle in Sardinia. In their political resolutions they have sometimes acted with an admirable concert and spirit. Not many years before the arrival of the Royal Family they had some reason to be discontented with the conduct of the Viceroy and his Ministers; and, in consequence, with one accord, they seized, at the same time, both on him and on all the Piedmontese Officers, and sent them home without turbulence or the shedding of any blood.

In a country where the inhabitants still wear skins, and titles remain in a great degree territorial, it is not to be expected that learning and the arts of polished life can have made any interesting degree of progress. There is, however, an institution in Cagliari worthy of being particularly noticed. It is formed for the purpose, as it were, of affording an opportunity to humble-born genius to expand and acquire distinction. The children of the peasants are invited to come into the city, where they serve in families for their food and lodging, on condition of being allowed to attend the schools of the institution.

They are called Majoli, and wear a kind of uniform, with which they are provided by their friends. Some of the Majoli rise to high situations: the greater number, however, return back to the provinces, and relapse into their hereditary rusticity; but the effects of their previous instruction remains; and sometimes, in remote and obscure valleys, the traveller meets with a peasant who, in the uncouth and savage garb of the country, shews a tincture of the polish and intelligence of the town.

The government of the present King is certainly esteemed by the people; but, considering the extent of the island, it has still too strong a predilection to the show rather than to the substance of its duties. By continuing impolitic restrictions on the exportation of wine and grain, except when there is unequivocally a surplus, it seems not yet to have learnt, that agriculture is but a branch of commerce; nor that the surest way of securing a supply for the home market is to encourage exportation, which gives a motive for cultivating the lands, and which, when failures of the usual crops arise, by being suspended, furnishes from the cultivation that it had promoted a supply for the deficiency. The government of Sardinia is in so great an apprehension lest the people should not have the necessary quantity of wine and grain, that the trade in these articles wants that assured regularity which is requisite to encourage merchants to embark in it. Licences to export are procured from the court; and, like all other court favours, are probably interestedly granted.

The revenue of the King is not at this time (1811) more than eighty thousand pounds sterling; still the paper money of the government does not bear a discount of more than six *per cent.*; so that it may be regarded as not inferior to any in Europe. It is only in the dealings of merchants that the discount is allowed; and it is a legal tender to the extent of half the amount of any debt.

The duty on importations by foreigners into Sardinia is $18\frac{1}{3}$ *per cent.* on the tarif estimates.

The population of the island is estimated at about 500,000 souls. The peasantry are the vassals of their respective chieftains; and the citizens are commonly employed in the little internal commerce which the country affords. The nobility are numerous and ignorant; and the same terms may be applied to the ecclesiastical locusts.

The exportable commodities of this island, owing to the condition of the inhabitants, still consists of very primitive articles; but which, notwithstanding the warmth of the climate and fertility of the soil, are not numerous. Wheat, in considerable quantities, is exported from Cagliari, the Gulph of Palmas, Orestano, Algheri, and Porto Torre, the harbour of Sassari. There is one kind of white wine, of a very superior flavour, made near Cagliari; and the red of the same neighbourhood, as well as that of the district of Oliastro, is of a strong good body, improves by transportation, and, with age, would become esteemed in England. Cheese forms an important article in the little traffic of Sardinia. Wool is also collected for exportation. Barilla, of a kind inferior to the Spanish, is also exported; and the salt works near the capital furnish a few cargoes. The Tunny fishing is one of the chief objects of the care of the government, and is in a respectable degree of prosperity. Goat and sheep skins may be obtained in quantities; and cow and stag horns may be numbered among the returns that a merchant might bring from this island. In the interior there are extensive forests of oak and other timber belonging to the King, but the oak for the most part is not sound at heart. Nevertheless it might be usefully employed, and might be turned to account by the merchant.

There is a lead mine open, which is reported to be rich, and might be made productive: it is wrought by convicts. But the want of roads and of machinery has the effect of prohibition both on the mineral and vegetable riches of this island.

A paper manufactory has been lately established under the royal patronage. In Cagliari there is a manufactory of cloth for the troops, and a tannery, the leather of which is considered tolerably good. The workmen are French. There is also in Cagliari a small soap manufactory. About eight or ten years ago the rearing of cotton was introduced. The silk-worm has also been very lately brought into the island, but it has not yet furnished any thing for exportation. It seems remarkable that this valuable insect should only have been so recently cultivated here, considering how well the climate is adapted to promote its increase

It is to be regretted that, in the present circumstances, no attempt has been made, on our part, to cultivate a more intimate connexion with Sardinia. Except the facilities voluntarily afforded by Mr. Hill, our minister, nothing has yet been publicly done to encourage the British merchants to explore the abundant commercial resources of this island. The pecuniary necessities of the court of Cagliari would, I think, induce the government to enter into any commercial treaty which would afford the prospect of a regular relief to its embarrassments; and the state of the inhabitants is such, that we might calculate on a growing demand for our manufactures, were the intercourse between the two countries established on a firm and assured basis. It is plainly the policy of Britain to acquire an

insular influence: an influence on the affections of those nations which she is able effectually to protect, and on which she has it in her power, from her commercial character, to confer the most essential benefits.

But while the system of occasional expedients, and the molestation of points, shall continue to engage the attention of our statesmen, nothing, in this way, suitable to the private character of the nation, can be expected. In every thing that relates to mercantile concerns, all our treaties have hitherto been singular monuments of official ignorance and presumption. It is wonderful that men, versed only in files and precedents, should still have the arrogance to suppose themselves capable of arranging matters, of which, from their education, they can have little knowledge. There is certainly an essential difference between the principles of the French and British systems of foreign policy. France is properly the active nation; and Britain has acquired her greatness merely by the vigour of her counteraction, led by the enterprising spirit of her commerce. It will hardly be denied, that if the French would only be quiet, the British government would be content to sit still. In the history of the rivalry of the two nations, every conquest achieved by the British, during the lapse of more than a century, has been acquired either immediately from the French, or to thwart some of their designs

SICILY.

I was landed from the Malta packet at Girgenti. Although the few houses at the Mole should no more be considered as a fair specimen of the general domestic accommodations of Sicily than a fishing village in the neighbourhood of an ordinary English town would be of those of England, there were, nevertheless, such unequivocal indications of an hereditary disposition to filthiness, that it was impossible to flatter myself with the hope of finding much comfort. The house of the post-officer, a large building, shewed a handsome enough exterior; but the road to the door was abominable, and what had been destined for the hall or vestibule, was in a condition only fit for the reception of pigs and poultry. The stairs seemed never to have been cleaned since the masons' rubbish was removed; and the rooms, when access was effected, presented a striking aspect of poverty and neglect.

At the post-house I got mules to carry my luggage to the city, and a horse for myself. Sending forward the mules, I proceeded, by the temples, in company with our Consul, who was so good as to act as my Cicerone, to the ruins of Agrigentum. In the course of our ride I noticed the rows of the American aloes which Mr. Brydon has described; and I was gratified with the view of a beautiful country, interspersed with vineyards and olive trees. Of the temples, the largest is that of Jupiter Olympus. It is now a mere heap of ruins, and I could scarcely trace its form. The defaced fragments of the pillars have relapsed into shapeless masses of stone; and the small portion of the walls that is still visible, is only sufficient to shew that

there has been a building. Not far from this edifice, stands a mausoleum, which antiquaries say is that of Tero, one of the earliest Sicilian monarchs. In passing along, several holes in the ground were pointed out to me, as openings which led into the Catacombs. The Temple of Concord is in fine condition, as an antiquary would say; the parts having been collected and replaced on each other, by order of the king. The Temple of Juno has also been re-edified in the same manner. But still, even though they be the monuments of Agrigentum, the sight of them is hardly worth a sabbath-day's journey. The church of St. Martin in the Fields, London, is larger than both of them put together, and infinitely more magnificent. Whatever the Ancients may have thought of the grandeur of Agrigentum, one can hardly refrain from suspecting, that in order to form a true conception of it, we should have pictures as well as words. The epithet Palace is applied to the residence of the chief of the Hottentots, as well as to the Vatican; and the two or three score of pillars plated with stucco which remain of Agrigentum, are not calculated to confirm the stories of its splendour. I can never now believe that it was really any thing but a respectable Sicilian town, when the island was probably a little more prosperous than at present.

GIRGENTI.

The distant appearance of this town, which stands on the summit of a lofty mountain, is truly superb. The large masses of convents and other ecclesiastical mansions, combined with the adjacent picturesque scenery, induce the mind to expect much internal magnificence. But the delusion soon vanishes: the vilest lanes in Edin-

burgh are paths of pleasantness compared to the streets of Girgenti. I was shown, among those objects, within the town, that are usually pointed out to strangers, the remains of a columnar temple which had been hewn out of the solid rock. The cathedral is a large plain structure, and celebrated chiefly for a remarkable echo. A person standing behind the high altar, hears the slightest whisper uttered at the west door, although the distance is between two and three hundred feet. This echo is but a trifling curiosity, not half so extraordinary as the echoes in the alcoves of Westminster Bridge, where a whisper articulated in any of them on the one side is heard in the opposite in despite of the noise of the carriages.

The principal commodities exported from Girgenti are grain and sulphur. The district makes wine sufficient for the inhabitants; but it is not remarkable for the cultivation of the vine. The grain harvest, indeed, where the land will admit of general cultivation, is a better return than wine; for the vines do not produce till the third year after planting.

A JOURNEY.

Having staid a few days at Girgenti, I proceeded across the mountains to Palermo in a Letica, the only kind of carriage suitable to the country roads of Sicily. It is of the form of a coach, and carried between two mules in the style of a sedan chair.

The country between Girgenti and Palermo is what a painter would probably call, very beautiful, and a young lady, romantic. It is, however, really often savage, seldom pleasant, and altogether such as only necessity should lead me to pass again. But in many

places one cannot avoid observing the liberality of nature to Sicily. The soil here and there, where the torrents from the mountains had worn out channels, appeared to be not less than twenty or thirty feet in depth. The fields, from which the harvest had just been removed, bore scarcely any traces of tillage. The Sicilian husbandry utensils are still in a rude state; the native fertility of the land is never properly excited; and the thinness of the stubble on the fields shewed that the produce had been scanty.

In the village where I rested for the night my guard procured me a miserable lodging in a little wine-shop, but more comfortable, as he assured me, than I should have found at the inn, where the mules and letica were stabled.

Soon after leaving this village, we entered the great road to Palermo. I was equally pleased and surprised at the number of well-dressed peasants whom I met returning from the market, and the prosperous appearance of the country. The vineyards in many places were in excellent order; the inclosures, though formed of that cumbrous shrub the prickly pear, were decently enough kept; and neat little country houses were interspersed among the fields.

After leaving the mountains, and coming down upon the level between them and the sea, the approach to Palermo is uncommonly delightful. The city, crowned with numerous domes, appears scarcely inferior to the idea which one is apt to conceive from the descriptions of Brydon. It stands at the junction of several valleys, and the surrounding mountains are finely picturesque; particularly Mount Pelegrino, which, in any landscape, would be a magnificent object. The sea also adds to the charms of the view. The surface

is frequently enlivened by numerous vessels and fishing-boats, scattered over it to the utmost range of the sight.

PALERMO.

All the descriptions that I have seen of the Capital of Sicily are rather defective than incorrect. Only the finest things are brought into the picture; the great masses of mean and slovenly objects, which everywhere offend the eye in the original, are excluded, by the prejudices of the taste of travellers. Palermo, notwithstanding the number and architectural magnificence of its Palaces and Churches, has an air of tawdry want, such as cannot be distinctly described. Poverty seems really to be the ordinary condition of the people from the top to the bottom. The ground stories of the noble edifices in the Via Toledo, as well as in the other great streets, would never have been converted into shops and coffee-houses, could the Princes and Dukes above-stairs have easily done otherwise.

It is the custom here for tradesmen of all sorts to carry on their respective employments in the open air. The number, in particular, of shoemakers and tailors at work in the Via Toledo is inconceivable. Indeed the crowd of persons in the streets is much beyond any thing that I have elsewhere seen; certainly much greater than in London. But, considering the extent of the city, only four miles within the circumference of the walls, it is impossible to be believed that the population is so great as the Sicilians allege. They talk of three hundred thousand inhabitants; a number, notwithstanding that the people swelter by dozens together in very small apartments, not to be credited. The population of Palermo may be equal to that of Dublin.

It appears to me, that it is not only the practice of the Sicilian tradesmen to work in the streets, but that particular streets in Palermo are, in some degree, appropriated to certain occupations: not that each trade exclusively attaches itself to any one part of the town, but, generally speaking, it has a local situation, where it may be considered as predominant. The Via Toledo seems to be the grand emporium of all the professions dependant on fashion. Another street is almost entirely occupied with brasiers; and there is perhaps not a more noisy spot in all Europe. Our thin tinned iron scarcely seems to be known here; but considerable quantities of block tin are used in the manufacture of lamps, forks, and other culinary and table utensils. In a third street I observed a number of female children, in almost every house, employed in tambouring and embroidering muslin. The manufacture of muslins has been introduced some time, and succeeds so well that it already consumes the principal part of the cotton raised in the district of Terra Nova. The chief establishment is at Caltanissetta, an inland town, rather distinguished for its linen trade. The latter branch is much indebted to the war, which has raised the price of German linen so high, that the Sicilians are obliged to have recourse to the productions of their own looms. The women are the weavers: their wages are about 9*d.* per day. The same quantity and kind of goods which were sold in the year 1792 for a dollar, are increased in value to above a dollar and a half. In the neighbourhood of the tambourers' street there is a lane entirely occupied by chair-makers and bed-smiths. It may be necessary to explain what the latter profession is; which, I think, does some credit to the Sicilians, if it originated with them. The climate of

this country is peculiarly congenial to the engenderings of bugs and other anti-dormists; and the inhabitants, in consequence, I imagine, have renounced bedsteads of wood, and adopted iron ones. Were the frames made of cast metal, they might be rendered ornamental, and could be procured, I should think, much cheaper than the hammered iron, which is the only kind at present in use.

THE JESUITS.

The college of the Jesuits in the Via Toledo, is the finest building in Palermo. It may not occupy so much ground as Christ Church in Oxford, or Trinity in Cambridge, but in architecture it excels them; and it is adorned with more costly ornaments. The stairs and galleries are spacious. The steps of all the former are made of large single blocks of marble, and the walls of the latter are hung with pictures and portraits, several of which are said to be very good.

Were we to judge of the character of the Jesuits by the singular manner in which their secular and ecclesiastical superiors have treated them, we should conclude that they were a highly dangerous, and even a criminal fraternity. But were we to judge by their undertakings, or by comparing them with the other monastic societies, or by the tendency of their general views, and particularly by the reasons which led to the abrogation of their order, our conclusion might be different. In the province of Paraguay, where they enjoyed the liberty of following their own systems completely, every thing in their government, as far as concerned the publick, was excellent. Steadily and directly pursuing the great end for which

governments were ordained, they made rapid progress in the formation of a community in which acts of public benefit were the only means of promoting private advantage. Whether a state so constituted was calculated to last, is a question that would admit of much discussion. Those who think it was not, may allege the present relapsed and barbarous condition of Paraguay; but certainly the argument is not perfectly fair. The experiment of the Jesuits was only in process when they were compelled to abandon their laboratory; and it cannot be just to say that the result which they expected would not have been realized, merely because the fire happened to be suddenly quenched, and the apparatus destroyed. It might be stated, that the tendency of the system of the Jesuits was to obtain the management of the political machine of the world: to take it out of the hands of the hereditary orders and of the military; and to substitute, in place of coercion and prerogative, reason and persuasion in the regulation of national affairs: to re-establish on the ruins of the Empire of Christendom, which the Reformation had so effectually rent and undermined, another Empire of Opinion, over which their own enterprizing fraternity should have the sovereign influence. Without examining their professions (for as members of the Roman church their professions were necessarily in conformity to its doctrines), let us only look at what they did: they formed a plan of intercourse and correspondence which extended to every country where they could obtain a footing; and they endeavoured to insinuate themselves into the confidence of mankind by every species of address that could procure an interest in the affections. Where a reputation of sanctity was the best instrument of advancement, the Jesuits never failed to distin-

guish themselves by the correctness of their morals. Where dexterity and address were wanted, the members of the brotherhood displayed a penetration and ability which have never been excelled. In short, by the exercise of all the various modifications of genius, wherever talents excited admiration and acquired power, the Jesuits were discovered labouring for the ascendancy. They were a religious order, because the character of priests facilitated their views.

The tendency of the principles of this celebrated society began to manifest itself in so many various ways, and with so great a uniformity of effect, that it came to be considered as the result of a premeditated design. The secular rulers of Europe were alarmed. They saw that hereditary rank and privilege—all those things which they conceived to be the end for which governments were instituted, would be subverted by the Jesuits; and, therefore, coalescing against the Order, they effected its abolition. A partial restoration, however, has lately been permitted in Palermo; and the school of the Order is numerously attended. If the times and circumstances in which the restoration has taken place be considered, we may perhaps see cause to regard the Sicilian government as influenced, in this matter, by a broader policy than is commonly ascribed to its views. The success of the French has been, undeniably, in a great measure, owing to their general mental superiority. The very errors of the Revolutionists proceeded from a kind of moral rankness that led to undertakings, which were criminal only because they were excesses. Armies having been opposed to their armies without effect, it is plausible to have recourse to a systematic counteraction of their moral vigour. This is a refinement in policy, however, that seems hardly

credible; but it ought to be remembered that in the court of Palermo there are many friends and admirers of Filangieri.

THE CLERGY.

In Sicily, as in other countries, the Hierarchy has certainly seen the best of its days. The youth no longer consider the service of the Altar as the apprenticeship of Fortune, nor the livery of the Church as the garb of Honour. They shrink at the ridiculous appearance of gowns, cowls, and shaven crowns, compared with the elegancies of worldly men; and the indolence of the monastic life is no longer a sufficient recompence for submitting to its restraints. The Church, having ceased to be regarded as venerable, is looked upon as ridiculous. This change has arisen from causes different from those which led to the Reformation in Luther's time. That Reformation originated in the exposure of doctrinal corruptions; and it was more because the monastic institutions were not found to be authorized by Scripture that they were abolished in the countries which embraced Protestantism, than on account of the flagitious lives of their members. But the doctrinal corruptions are not now thought of; nor do even considerations of morality much contribute to the increasing contempt with which the ecclesiastical profession throughout this province of the Papal empire is regarded. The institutions of the Church are now generally estimated by their temporal utility; and, being found without value in this respect, are of course deemed oppressive.

THE POOR.

Among the most striking proofs of the decline of clerical wealth and power in Sicily, is the falling off in the customary largesses to the poor at the gates of the convents. The effect of this in the first instance is melancholy. The state of the poor is gradually become worse, and in Palermo the number of mendicants has visibly increased within the last twenty years. Some time since, their distresses attracted the attention of the government; and a large and extensive establishment, in imitation of our English workhouses, was instituted to remedy the evil. The building, though not yet completed to the extent of the design, would do honour to any state. The interior regulations are, I am told, efficient and judicious. The inmates amount to several hundreds, and their employment is chiefly in the different processes of the manufactories of silk. But however well intended, this institution is found entirely inadequate to remove the distresses of the poor; and in proportion as the Church continues to decline, the number of beggars must increase, until that salutary change in the habits of the lower orders, of which the cessation of their gratuitous supply is the necessary forerunner, shall have taken place. The Sicilian gentry, particularly the females, have the reputation of being very charitable. The whole nation, indeed, seems to have a great share of benevolence. He must be strongly prejudiced, indeed, who would not allow the conduct of this people, to one another, notwithstanding the general distrust that *individualizes* them so much, to be both respectable and kindly.

LUXURIES.

Among the extraordinary things in the frame of the society of this country, may be reckoned the exemption of articles of luxury from taxation. Neither carriages, horses, nor houses, are subject to assessment. Even foreign wines in Palermo are rated at little more than the wines of the island. But all those necessaries, of which the labourer requires as many and as much as the nobleman, constitute the means of the revenue. Here the monopolies of bread, fish, oil, &c. are annually farmed; and the privilege of selling ice, which in Palermo is as much an article of necessity as porter is in London, is disposed of in the same manner. It is hardly possible to imagine a fact more strikingly illustrative of the contempt with which the people of this island are regarded.

The quantity of Indian figs, or prickly pears, as they are sometimes called, consumed in Sicily, is almost incredible. In every part of the country you meet with plantations of Indian figs. In every village, stalls are seen covered with Indian figs. At every corner of every street in Palermo are piles of Indian figs. If a Sicilian be observed eating any thing, it is certainly Indian figs. If he be carrying a basket, it is full of Indian figs. Every ass that is seen coming into the city in the morning is loaded with Indian figs. Every peasant that is seen in the evening counting his copper money on a stone, is reckoning the produce of his Indian figs. If an article be bad, it is said not to be worth an Indian fig; and there is nothing in the world better than an Indian fig. It is the only luxury

that the poor enjoy; and, like all other luxuries, it is exempted from taxation.

..... "This is noble, and bespeaks
A nation proud and jealous of the blessing."

POPULATION.

The population of Sicily has for many years been gradually increasing. The fact has been incontrovertibly established by recent extracts from the parochial registers; a fact sufficient to prove that the condition of the inhabitants must be in a gradual state of improvement. It is deserving of notice, that the increase of males has lately been out of all proportion greater than that of females. In Palermo the population has exceeded the increase of houses, and, in consequence, it is exceedingly difficult to find an empty habitation. In the year 1809 the demand was greater than had ever before been known, and was attended in many instances with much inconvenience. Persons who had given notice of removal, not being able to find houses, refused to quit at the term; and landlords, in order to avail themselves of the augmented value of their property, attempted to oblige the tenants either to remove or to pay a higher rent. This excited much conversation; and, as the Sicilians have a great deal to say on all subjects, their noise and clamour at length reached the ears of Government, and it was thought expedient to order that no person in the possession of a house should, for that term, be forced to quit, nor any increase take place in the rate of rents. This sudden influx of inhabitants to Palermo is supposed to be owing to Neapolitan and other Continental emigrants.

Although it cannot be doubted that Sicily, within the last ten years, has begun to shew decided symptoms of improvement, a fact confirmed by the testimony of those who have made the statistics of the country their study; yet, in what concerns the arts of decoration, Palermo has greatly declined. The buildings erected during the early part of the last century are on a more magnificent scale than those recently constructed. The style, if I may use the expression, was then more spacious, and the interior ornaments more splendid. The walls and cielings of the apartments in the new houses are either stained with simple colours, or painted in imitation of paper hangings, while the doors and pannelling are commonly plain. But, in the old houses, the walls are hung with satin and tapestry, the doors are gilded, and the pannels are often covered with mirrors or pictures. This alteration, in the style of domestic accommodation, might lead one to conclude that Palermo has fallen from its ancient opulence. But the falling off, in point of state and shew, may be owing to the introduction of a taste for more comfort and convenience. The residence of the nobility in the capital, during the reign of the present king, has diffused among the tradesmen so much wealth, that a middle class has begun to arise here; while the fashionable competitions of the nobility in their entertainments has impaired their inheritance, and forced them to incur debts which no longer permit them to maintain the splendour of their ancestors. If, therefore, no palaces be now building, but many falling into ruin, changes may be observed going on which more than compensate this disadvantage. The suburbs of Palermo begin to in-

dicate something like the formation of that comfortable middle class, which is the pre-eminent boast and distinction of England.

GAMING.

The Palermitans are certainly greatly addicted to cards and billiards. The number of gaming-houses adapted to all ranks and degrees is astonishing. So general and habitual, indeed, is the passion for play, that it manifests itself in situations where, previously, one should not expect to meet with it: it is the ruling passion of the Sicilians. In going one morning to the Tribunal of Justice, I saw a groupe of card-players sitting on the landing-place of the great staircase, earnestly occupied with their game, although the bustle around them was almost as great as that of the Royal Exchange of London at high change time. On the Marina, when the weather will not permit boats to put to sea, I have frequently seen the fishermen at cards; nor is it unusual to observe bands of idle boys sitting on the steps of the church-doors engaged in the same spendthrift occupation. Were this passion confined only to the higher ranks, I should almost be disposed to consider it as one of those private evils which minister to public good. It may seem paradoxical to assert that the love of play among the Sicilian nobility is a source of national benefit; but, nevertheless, the idea has some foundation in fact. The losers are compelled to resort to so many various modes of procuring the means of paying their debts of honour, that frequent changes of property are produced, either for life or in perpetuity, by which the feudal obligations are gradually relaxed. The vassals, no longer labouring for those hereditary

lords, whose ancestors, time out of mind, were the lords of their fathers, feel themselves, under new masters, in possession of some degree of individual liberty. The surplus of their labour comes to be regarded less as the property of their masters, and they begin to entertain the hope of acquiring something that may be called their own. Still, however, as the new territorial superior has the same legal privileges as the old, this gives birth to duplicity of character and clandestine dealings, in order to ward off the execution of his claims; and the peasantry of Sicily are, of necessity, a cunning and equivocating race.

TIME AND BELLS.

One of the most puzzling things to an English stranger in Sicily is the mode of reckoning time. I was several days in Palermo before I understood it, or indeed suspected that it differed from ours, having either never heard, or forgotten, that the Italian mode of computing was different from that of the rest of Europe. Sometimes the public clock in the Piazza Marina, where I staid, pronounced the hours with much audible distinctness, and there was little difference between it and my watch; but it was in general so incoherent, that I began to think that the intellects of the steeple were deranged. The servants in the hotel, being acquainted with our way of reckoning the hours, never found any difficulty in understanding my orders or inquiries which respected time, and they always answered according to our practice. I know not how long I might have continued in this state of ignorance and error, had I not overheard a gentleman observe jocularly that it was noon to-day at

the seventeenth hour. This expression excited my attention; and, after I got home, and had thrown myself on a sopha, I began to ruminate upon it. "Was it a scriptural mode of expression?" No: "for the Jews reckoned from the watches of the night;—What can it mean?"—At this interesting moment, the waiter happening to come into the room, was, just as he entered, asked by some one in the passage, "what o'clock it then was?" "Twenty-one and a half," answered he. "Twenty-one and a half o'clock!" echoed I: "why this is still more mysterious." I immediately started upright, and began to examine the waiter on the subject. The result was a most satisfactory explanation of the whole mystery, and an ample vindication of the steeple from the suspicion that I had entertained of its sanity. The Sicilians, it seems, begin to reckon their time from sun-set, an hour after which is one of the clock; in consequence, as the declination of the sun alters, the time by the clock at which it is noon also changes. Part of my error as to the public clock had arisen, I found, in consequence of its superior endowments, for it told quarters as well as the hours, and the hours only by half dozens.

The subject of Clocks leads one, by the natural association of ideas, to that of Bells. It is not the practice in these Catholic Countries to hang the bells in our heretical manner, on moveable axles with great wheels that make the steeples quake to the foundations, but to fix them to a stationary cross-beam. The rope is fastened to the tongue, immediately underneath which the bellman takes post, and, by shaking it backwards and forwards, produces the sound. This mode, though the noise is much more disorderly

than with us, is really a very sensible one; for certainly it is much better to move the tongue against the body, than the body against the tongue. I suspect that when bells were first imported among us, directions for ringing them were omitted to be sent, and that our laborious custom must be considered as another proof of that wisdom of our ancestors which is so justly admired.

AMUSEMENTS.

The appearance of the Italian Theatre, and the interior arrangement, I think superior to ours. The boxes are snug little lodges, suitable for many other purposes, as well as of seeing the performance on the stage. There is no gallery, but the pit is divided into two departments. The back division, being at a lower rate, answers the purpose of a gallery equally well, and is more easily kept in order. Disturbances, indeed, are not likely to occur in the Theatres of Palermo; for the benches are subdivided into a certain number of seats each, and, on paying the price at the door, a ticket, with the number of the bench and the seat, is given. One is not, therefore, exposed to any pressure, and a seat may be always secured by sending in time for a ticket. It is not the custom for persons to go alone to the boxes, because it is necessary to pay for the whole box. But, in taking a box, the number which may be carried with one is of no consequence; a good regulation for families where there are many unmarried daughters. The boxes are separated from each other in front by a division apparently about a foot broad, which gives them a much snugger appearance than the pigeon-holes of the

King's Theatre in London, and adds greatly to the symmetry and beauty of the house.

A great part of the audience in the pit generally consists of the Officers of the Guards and the Garrison, and some of the knacky little ones carry gimblets in their pockets, which they screw into the back of the seats before them, to serve as pegs for their hats. Females are not allowed to come into the pit; and, instead of those bawling strumpets that annoy one so much in the London houses with "Nice oranges, and a bill of the play," the servants of the company in the boxes attend their masters or mistresses with ices, &c. and one person has a monopoly of the sale of refreshments in the pit.

In the Theatres of Palermo there are two excellent customs for the public, the authors, and the performers. When a new piece is to be brought out, the Court generally goes to the Theatre, and, by its presence, ensures a fair hearing to the performance. An actor, before the sovereign, rarely has presumption enough to sloven over his part, and conspirators are restrained in their designs, whether they be against the author or the public. The practice of applauding, by clapping the hands, is here as vehemently in use as with us; but singers are not obliged to repeat their songs at the will of ten or a dozen obstreperous encorers. When the applause continues so long and general as distinctly to show the wish of the audience, the Lord Mayor of the City, as we should call him, or the Magistrate next in rank to him, when he happens not to be present, gives a sign to the actor, and the song is repeated. Certainly neither of these two customs does, in the smallest degree,

infringe public liberty: on the contrary, by securing justice to individuals, they promote it.

It is somewhat remarkable, that the gesticulation on the stage of Palermo is more moderate than with us: it is, at the same time, much more emphatic. The Sicilians, indeed, excel in this respect; even in the streets one sometimes sees an unstudied display of this tacit part of oratory equal to some of our best premeditated exhibitions.

The apparatus of the Palermitan stage is not, for an instant, to be compared to that of the smallest of the London houses, either in point of magnificence or of variety. But in some other things it is not inferior; for, though the dresses are less splendid, and the scenery less various, the dramas are got up with much minuteness and propriety of decoration.

The subjects of the performance, however, more than the regulations of the theatre, or the ornaments of the stage, interested my attention. Of Italian Operas and Comedies I was not ignorant; but I had scarcely ever heard of Alfieri before my arrival in Palermo; nor was I at all aware of the extraordinary merits of his Tragedies till I happened to see one of them performed. The simplicity of the arrangement, the majestic energy of the language, and the noble public virtue which he inculcates, came upon me with the freshness of nature and the thrill of enchantment. I had no previous notion that the Italian language contained any thing so powerful, nor that an Italian of these times had been capable of conceiving sentiments so magnanimous. The only fault that I could find, after the first excitement abated, was the elevation of his verse. The Drama is a

representation of persons; and, whatever may be the grandeur and glory of their ideas, they should be made to deliver themselves in the familiar expressions of life. There is another defect in the compositions of Alfieri, arising from the constraint with which circumstances are made conformable to the unities. A more natural arrangement, and a style of poetry like the colloquial felicity of Shakespeare, would constitute, in my opinion, the perfection of the Drama.

None of the performers that I saw in Sicily seemed to have any degree of uncommon merit. The most popular was one who represented the vulgar Sicilian character much in the manner that the Irish and Scottish characters are commonly exhibited in London.

In Palermo there is a Burritini Theatre, where Comedies are really most divertingly well performed by puppets *. On this stage a Signior Topholo is introduced, who seems to be that kind of personification of the Sicilian national character that John Bull is of the English. But the most amusing part of the performance arises from the puppets being made, in some instances, to resemble so exactly odd characters in the town, that the caricature cannot be mistaken, and never fails to afford indescribable delight to the loquacious and lively Sicilians.

NOBILITY.

Of the character and condition of the Sicilian Nobles I have uniformly received but one opinion. The time of by far the greater

* A similar entertainment was some years ago exhibited at Ranelagh, under the name of the Fantocini.

number is spent in the pursuit of amusement, and of any other object than the public good. The most of them are in debt, and the incomes of but few are adequate to their wants: many are in a state of absolute beggary.

One evening, as I happened to be returning home, I fell in with a procession of monks and soldiers bearing an image of St. Francis; and, not having seen any thing of the kind before, I went with the crowd into a church towards which the procession was moving. While reckoning the number of the friars as they entered, and having reached a hundred and seventy, all excellent subjects for soldiers, a well-dressed gentleman came up to me, and, bowing, pointed to some of the ornaments as objects worthy of a stranger's curiosity; but, perceiving me shy of entering into conversation with him, and the procession entering the church at the same time, he walked or was forced by the current of the crowd away.

The idol being placed near the high altar, the crowd began to chaunt a hymn. As they all fell on their knees, and my tight prejudices and small clothes would not permit me to do the same, I turned into one of the side chapels, and, leaning against the railing of the altar, began to speculate on the spectacle before me, when the stranger again accosted me. Somewhat disconcerted by the interruption, and by the forwardness of the man, I abruptly quitted my place. But, before I had moved two steps, he approached, and, bowing, said, I am the Baron M——, and my palace is just opposite. At this instant the worshippers rose, and the procession turning to go out at one of the side doors near where we were standing, before I could retreat, I found myself involved in the

crowd, and obliged to go with the stream. When I reached the street, I found the stranger again at my side. This is very extraordinary, thought I; and, without seeming to notice him, walked away. He followed; and when we had got out of the nucleus of the throng, he seized me firmly by the arm, and drew me aside. Enraged and alarmed at this mysterious treatment, I shook him fiercely from me. For about the time that one might count twenty, he seemed to hesitate; and then, suddenly coming back, repeated, in Italian, with considerable energy, "I, I am the Baron M——. This is my palace; but I have nothing to eat!" I looked at the building, near the gate of which we were then standing: it was old and ruinous: there was no lamp in the court-yard, and only a faint light glimmering in one of the windows.

Mistaking my silence and astonishment, he pulled out his watch, and, placing it in my hand, entreated me to give him some money. As I had no disposition to become a pawnbroker, I returned it with some expressions of surprise, and took out my purse with the intention of giving it to him, for it only contained two or three small pieces. But here all the solemnity of the adventure terminated. He snatched it out of my hand, and, emptying the contents into his own, returned it; and, wishing me good night, ran into the gateway.

In Sicily the number of the nobility is out of all proportion to the population, and they are too strong for the government, without having any connexion with the people. It seemed to me, that the great desideratum in Sicily was a reduction of the number of nobility, and some constitution which would subject them more to the controul of public opinion. Without something of this kind, the resources of

the country can never be rendered available to the government; nor the government, however absolute it may be in name, made really efficient: and without this, I may add, the nobility themselves can never acquire respectability as a body. Were they rendered in any degree responsible to the public for their conduct, there is a spirit of improvement in Sicily abundantly strong to make it a considerable kingdom. Many of the poor young diminutive Barons, Counts, and Marchesies, who are deterred, by respect for their titles, from embarking in business, would, if relieved from that restraint, soon be seen occupied in counting-houses, instead of lounging at the gaming-table. Their little estates would furnish respectable capitals for trade, while their petty feudal jurisdictions would serve legitimately to augment the regal authority.

Political power is in this island subdivided into so many small unequal portions, that there is not enough left to enable the government to act in a way suitable to the extremity of its circumstances. The government feels this; and, in order to preserve itself, is often obliged to act in a manner repugnant to the habits of the Sicilian nobility, and destructive of their feudal pretensions. This occasions discontent, which betrays them into intemperate expressions. These are reported, with aggravating insinuations. The Court, in addition to the natural jealousy of governments, is vexed by the loss of all its splendour, and the finest portion of its dominions, and deems extraordinary precautions necessary to preserve the little that remains. These cannot well be taken against the discontented only: they comprehend the whole nation; and the nation, feeling itself an object of distrust to the Court, becomes, in its turn, distrustful of the govern-

ment. Were the regal authority better defined, and capable of being exercised with uniform effect, it is probable that the discontents engendered among the higher ranks, and disseminated by them among the lower, would not be so strong as they have generally been.

The present state of Sicily, I am inclined to think, resembles very much what I conceive to have been that of England in the reign of Henry VII. The church is falling, the nobility are losing their feudal influence, and the pretensions of the crown, and the consequence of the commons, are visibly extending. It must be added, however, that there is a vast difference between the character of the Sicilians and that of the English of the period alluded to. The English were a bold and masculine race, rendered familiar with danger by a long series of domestic contests. The Sicilians are of a very different description; and the constitution of the country is more likely to be reformed by strangers than by themselves.

MANNER OF LIVING.

Since the arrival of the British in Sicily, the price of meat has nearly doubled, and the value of cattle of all descriptions has been raised prodigiously throughout the whole island; the effect of which must soon be felt in the improved cultivation of the land, and an increase of the wages of labour. The value of aristocratic property will be increased, and the value of the poor man's stock (his strength) will also share in the general benefit. The Sicilians themselves are no great consumers of animal food. Sallads, macaronies, and olives, constitute the main part of their fare; and if the frugality that is the result of necessity were a virtue, their temperance would deserve

great praise. Children and young people eat bread to breakfast; but adults seldom take more than a single cup of coffee. The dinner hour is early, and corresponds to the lunching time of the English. Supper is the principal meal. They do not drink wine at table with one another as we do, but fill their glasses as they please. Nor is it the custom to inquire of a stranger, of what dish he would choose to eat. The fish and meats being cut up, a servant carries them round, and the guest takes whichever he likes. There is, in general, an evident imitation of British customs; but, like all imitations, the effects are sometimes ludicrous. In Palermo it is not confined to dress and the etiquettes of the table; but extends even to the construction of the houses. There are several new ones painted to imitate bricks, with which the proprietors have heard that the English houses are built. The most ludicrous instance of this taste, that I have seen, is the palace of Prince Belmonte, at the bottom of Mount Pelegrino. The building is certainly in the British style, and not unlike the body of Wanstead-house, in the neighbourhood of London. The stone of Palermo is so very coarse, that it is necessary to coat the walls with a plaster prepared from it. But, instead of the native stone colour of the plaster being retained, the walls of this palace are painted to resemble brick, to the great disgrace of a beautiful marble portico.

TRADE.

The general foreign trade of Palermo, appeared to me to be chiefly in the hands of the British; and the supply of colonial produce to be brought by the Americans. The Americans have enjoyed this

branch, which one might have expected to have been more naturally in our hands, owing to the now impolitic adherence of our government to that principle of colonial policy, which in a former age rendered it necessary to oblige the planters to send their produce to the mother country. One might have thought that, having obtained Malta, and considering the great consumption of colonial produce in the surrounding countries, considering also the hardships which our planters have suffered by the shutting of the ports under the domination of the French, that a direct intercourse would have been allowed from the colonies to that island. But the surprising degree of ignorance which our diplomatic men shew in the arrangements that they make under the idea of promoting trade, but in effect to abridge it, has prevented our planters from being benefited by the advantage which might have been derived to them from our possession of Malta. Nor, in our treaties with the Sicilian government, has any care been taken to secure for us that degree of superior favour which we ought to possess, considering the vast sacrifices that are made on our part, for the defence of Sicily. The Americans have, it is true, consuls in Sicily, but there is no diplomatic correspondence between the two nations: and yet they enjoy as great privileges, and more facilities to their trade, than we do; notwithstanding that there is a large British army quartered in the fortresses, and a fleet specially appointed for the protection of the island. This, no doubt, partly arises from the insignificant characters that we have had in our embassies at the court of Palermo. But our interests should be placed on a more distinct basis than on the personal peculiarities of any individuals whatever. We are a commercial nation in what respects our con-

nexions with foreign powers; and the men who have the charge of superintending the tenures of these connexions, should not only be capable of understanding the importance of the mercantile character, but also be rendered incapable of impairing their own particular charge, without incurring a positive penalty.' The negligence, however, of our diplomatic relations with Sicily have now reached their extremity, and cannot be either longer concealed or endured.

The territory immediately round Palermo is chiefly devoted to the raising of supplies for the city. It furnishes little for exportation, though its productions are various and numerous. The king has lately, for his own amusement, laid out a piece of ground with olive trees, where the oil is prepared in the French manner. What is made is said to be excellent; but the quantity, as yet, is trifling. The adjacent land not furnishing any great quantity of commodities for exportation, and the manufactures of the town being generally in a rude and humble state, the trade of Palermo is much less considerable than might have been expected from its wealth and population. The facilities for extending the commercial intercourse with the interior, stand much in need of improvement. The post-office establishment, so essential and so fostering to mercantile business, is here in a very contemptible condition: so much so, that the British have in some sort a post establishment for themselves; chiefly in consequence of the imperfections of the Sicilian post-office, and partly on account of the want of integrity in the officers, as well as on account of the intriguing, distrustful, and prying spirit of the Court.

At a period not long past, it appears to have been the wish of the Neapolitan government, to give inducements to foreign merchants

to settle in Sicily; and, among other regulations for this purpose, one still exists in Palermo, which seems to have been judiciously contrived. It is, in principle, the same as our bonding system; but, being calculated more for the detail of dealing, is, on that account, more remarkable. It is also of greater antiquity. The merchants are allowed to land and lodge their goods in the warehouses of the custom-house, where they dispose of them to the small buyers, paying the duties as they sell. This, in the present state of the trade of Palermo, is highly admirable. There are few merchants in the city who could command sufficient money to pay the duties at importation; and the foreigner, on his arrival here, is, in a great degree, enabled to transact his own business. The plan, however, requires revisal, and might be made a very excellent accommodation to the merchant. On a recent occasion, it was rather disturbed by the Court; but my observations relate, chiefly, to the general state of things; and temporary accidents, or errors, it is needless to notice circumstantially, unless they serve to illustrate general views.

AN IMPROVISATORE.

On the day after my arrival in Palermo, while passing along the Via Toledo, a man accosted me in English, putting, at the same time, into my hand, a paper, signed by several British travellers. The purport of this paper was, that the bearer had acted as their guide in viewing the curiosities of the place, and that they had been pleased with him. As I was, at the time, not disposed to look at particular sights, I desired him to call on me at the hotel, rather for the purpose of getting quit of him for the present, than with any

intention of taking his assistance; for I have uniformly, in the course of my travels, avoided, when I could, these kind of professional guides. On the following morning, he accordingly paid me a visit; and, among other rare and great qualifications, informed me, that he had received from nature the endowment of poesy, and that he was the best improvisatore in all Palermo. Just as I was about to ask for a specimen of his talent, the landlord came into the room; and, by divers significant winks and nods, admonished me to send the Cicerone away, which I did. On inquiring of the landlord, who spoke a little English, what the fellow was, "Oh my God!" cried he, "that is one grand furbo. He shall not come in house of mine. He play at cards, and take away all the money. He is one spy. He will ask you for the news. You will tell him, without the particularmenti. Then he go to Castroni of the police, and say what he heard from English gentleman. My God! Signore, he is one poet! When he come again, you tell him to go to hell." "I shall certainly follow your advice," said I.

Next day, the Improvisatore again made his appearance. He held in his hand two sheets of paper, magnificently stitched together with a pink ribband; which, with a smiling and triumphant look, bowing at the same time, he presented to me; and, seating himself, began to take snuff. The paper contained a congratulatory ode on my arrival, written in English; but such incomparable nonsense I never before perused. Notwithstanding I had, *à priori*, resolved to drive him out of the room, the absurdities of the composition compelled me to laugh, and it was quite impossible, in that state, to be so rude. The bard himself also began to grin with hope and

satisfaction; but a gentleman, happening in that crisis to call, to whom I shewed the ode, told me, that the same fellow had presented a copy of the same verses to a friend of his a few days before.

BOOKSELLERS.

During my first peregrinations through Palermo, I began to form a very respectable opinion of the state of literary knowledge among the inhabitants. In almost every street I saw shops full of venerable looking books; seemingly, by their size and binding, the most ancient editions of the classics; and every shop was crowded with customers, intent to communicate, and eager to learn. Desirous of ascertaining what species of literature was most in fashion, I resolved to make a tour of the booksellers; and, having breakfasted earlier by an hour than usual, I accordingly sallied forth. But on going into the first shop, the servant whom I had hired to act as Sicilian interpreter, having previously understood the cause of the untimely breakfasting, came up, and said that it was not a bookseller's but a notary's shop. "Well then," said I, "let us go to the next." It was a lottery-office. To the next: it was again a notary's. Not to be tedious, let it suffice to say, that all the numerous shops, with the venerable books, and throng of customers, turned out to be either lawyers' or lottery-offices. In the whole city of Palermo, which probably exceeds in the number of palaces all the cities of the British empire put together, and the population of which is more than double that of Edinburgh, there are but two regular booksellers. There are, it is true, several other shops where books are sold; but they are mean and dirty, and only antiquaries and vermin frequent them.

QUAIL SHOOTING.

In the month of September vast flocks of Quails come over from the Continent to Sicily, and, being fatigued by their flight, are easily shot on their arrival. The pleasure which the Palermitans take in this sport is incredible. Crowds of all ages and degrees assemble on the shore, and the number of sportsmen is prodigious. In one groupe I reckoned eleven; and, in less than half a mile, thirty-four groupes; each consisting of from two to five persons, with as many dogs. The number in boats is, perhaps, greater than those on the land. From morning to night they watch the coming of the birds, and nature seems sometimes to be conquered by patience; for I saw one day a sportsman actually asleep, his head resting on his gun. But, on observing the proceedings, this did not appear so much out of character as I at first supposed. For the aquatics first seeing the quails, their firing rouses and gives signal to the landsmen. Then enviable is the lot of the idle apprentice, who, with a borrowed old musket or pistol, no matter how unsafe, has gained possession of the farthest accessible rock, where there is but room for himself and his dog, which he has fed with bread only, all the year round, for these delightful days, and which sits in as happy expectation as himself for the arrival of the quails.

ST. ROSALIA.

I made a pilgrimage to the shrine of St. Rosalia on Mount Pelegrino, not performed without toil; but the magnificent prospects which display themselves at every turning of the steep ascent

tend to lessen the fatigue, and excite to new efforts. The shrine of this beloved Goddess of the Palermitans in no respect falls short of the description given of it by Brydon. She is worth several thousand pounds; at least I am sure she has dowry enough to awaken the affections of any General in the French service. When one reflects on the romantic history and benevolence of the beautiful Rosalia, it is really no wonder that she is so much adored. I observed, by one of the votive offerings, that she had only a few days before wrought a very notable miracle. The miracles of the Roman Saints are, in fact, only events of that sort which we call providential escapes, and are commemorated by the votaries presenting to the shrines, with money or trinkets, paintings representing the accidents. Sometimes the painting represents a tooth-drawing, and even more laughable subjects.

The festival of Santa Rosalia is, by the concurring testimony of all who have seen it, the most superb ecclesiastical exhibition in these regions. Every dealer in finery looks forward to it as the farmer does to autumn. The wealth of the confectioners is estimated by the number of festivals that they have been in business. One seller of iced water in the Via Toledo, who distributes his glasses at the rate of a *grain* each (the twentieth part of eightpence), is said to sell, during the festival, to the amount of twenty pounds sterling a day. If a baronial family be stinted in its meals, children and domestics are all consoled with the expectation of the profusion that shall abound at this feast.

ACADEMY OF PAINTING.

Every man who passes the Straits of Gibraltar pretends to some superior power of discrimination, in the arts of Painting and Sculpture. I might justly be charged with affectation, did I not declare that the pictures, in the Royal collection here, afforded me great pleasure. But, as they have all, no doubt, been often enough described, and I happen not to have any Dictionary of Painters at hand to help me with details, either biographical or critical, I shall not venture to say which, in my opinion, are the most beautiful. I only know what pleases myself, without being able to assign the principles from which my satisfaction arises. This, however, I could not fail to observe, in looking at these well-preserved specimens of the skill of the old masters, that the artists of the English Academy have much to unlearn. There is a vicious propensity among them to surpass Nature. Her simplicity, vigour, and graces, are rejected for some metaphysical conception of beauty, which the Italian painters never appear to have studied. If criticism be the art of detecting deviations from Nature, the presumption that oversteps her modesty deserves chastisement as much as the vulgarity that disfigures her. I cannot withhold my inconsiderable approbation from the excellent plan in practice here for improving the art of painting. The Royal collection of pictures is chiefly exhibited in the saloon of the palace, where the students belonging to the Academy have permission to draw, with every facility to promote their studies, and a master to direct them. There is, at present, no native artist in Palermo of extraordinary merit; but I saw at work, in the Palace, several young

men who copied with fidelity and great splendour of effect. This liberal and judicious arrangement cannot long continue, without assisting the developement of original genius.

It may be considered as a shocking disregard of keeping, to pass from the master-pieces of the Italian artists to the Barbers' signs of Palermo; but the human mind is so framed, that such associations of ideas are nevertheless natural. For the barbers' signs here are pictures. They commonly represent a naked arm, just punctured by a lance held in an adjacent hand.

MODE OF SEPULTURE.

The concatenation continues; and I am led by the images that suggested to me cases of sickness and doctors, to think of the interment of the dead. I had been fully six weeks in Palermo before I was so lucky as to see a funeral, although "the host" at that time had evidently a great run. Happening to mention this circumstance to a gentleman, he amused me much by his account of the Palermitan mode of burial. The dead are put into sedan chairs, and carried quietly to the church, where the friends and relations meet and pay their last respects. These sedan chairs resemble exactly those which are used at Bath to carry the hospital patients to the waters. Some of them are appropriately adorned with the armorial bearings of the king of terrors, *viz.* two bones in Or, as a Saltier on a field Sable; crest, a scull; motto, *Memento mori.*

MARINA.

The mention of heraldic ornaments recalls to remembrance the Marina, where the nobility and their emblazoned carriages make so great a shew. It is chiefly frequented during the summer evenings. I have never seen, nor can I imagine, a more charming place for similar recreation. The walk is a raised pavement next the sea. On it the Patricians mingle with the multitude, sharing the impartial blandishment of the air as it comes refreshed from the water. The views, both towards the east and the west, afford superb prospects of mountain scenery; and the moving vessels in the bay form an agreeable contrast to the stationary objects of the town. But the universal gaiety which prevails, on this delightful place, is even more exquisite than the variety and cheerfulness of the views. The heart must be sullen indeed that will not relax on the Marina of Palermo.

THE COURT.

Every traveller who gives his observations to the public is a kind of spy; for often, after he has been hospitably entertained, he finds himself obliged to make communications, which may lay him open to the charge of ingratitude. In the little, however, that I have to say relative to the Court of Palermo, I am under no temptation to disguise my real sentiments. At the same time, I am so fully sensible of the difficulty, to a stranger, of justly appreciating the characters of public persons, and of the danger of trusting to popular report, that I am almost inclined to omit the topic entirely. I feel also a restraint arising from another cause. There seems to me a

sufficient disposition excited in the public mind of England against the line of political conduct pursued by the Court of Palermo; nor is the spirit of the age indulgent to the errors of princes.

The queen must, undoubtedly, be considered as the first person in Sicily, as the king leaves all the affairs of the state to her management; and certainly she conducts them with much address and spirit. The wisdom of her measures, as to the effect intended, is another question. In her attention to business she is quite indefatigable; and the number of letters and papers, which appear in her own hand-writing, is so extraordinary, that I have heard her application described as a passion for doing every thing herself. Notwithstanding the moral defects generally laid to her charge, she is said to be much esteemed by her immediate attendants, and to possess many amiable qualities. In her affections, as a mother, she is entitled to the greatest respect. It is indeed not uncommon to find the public and private character of persons in high stations at variance. The great infirmity of Queen Caroline's mind arises from the vehemence of her feelings. She considers her undertakings with too much earnestness, and looks upon every measure that she plans as in some sort her last stake. Were she a gambler, it is probable that her anxieties would be as strongly roused at sixpenny loo as by the hazard of all she possessed in the world. When one reflects on her misfortunes, it is not surprising that she should have lost that regal equanimity which is expected on the throne. Born to the highest earthly dignity, and fostered, unconsciously, by the circumstances attending the early part of her life, into a belief that she was almost of a species superior to the ordinary human race, she

could not be otherwise than proud. All the predilections of her disposition were settled into habits before any event occurred to inform her that the daughter of so many emperors was within the reach of adversity; but, few women have ever endured greater afflictions. Her sister has fallen on the scaffold. The family of that sister has been compelled to implore alms and shelter from its ancient enemies. She cannot name one relation, or friend, that has not suffered degradation. She has, herself, been compelled to become a fugitive, and knows, which, to a mind like hers, is one of the greatest miseries, that many of her former flatterers are now repeating their sycophancy to the robbers that have taken possession of her home. Nor is this all; she knows that her favourite daughter has been poisoned. The house that she inhabits is but a precarious lodging, in which she never lays her head upon her pillow without the dread of being roused by a warning to quit, or by a fiat that may make her a beggar, or a prisoner. Did her situation afford any prospect of improvement, it would lessen the sentiments which her great misfortunes inspire; but, wherever she turns her eyes, she can witness only affliction and dismay. Even as a mother, she is cut off from the pleasure of that redeeming hope which softens the present distress of a parent: for she sees none of her descendants capable of contending with the staunch destruction that has been let loose on the race of Austria and the Bourbons. Her second son, Prince Leopold, was sent, in a late expedition, to the coast of Naples, with some expectation that he would distinguish himself: the expedition failed; and the Prince, in many respects, disappointed the hopes of his mother. Before he had time to land from the frigate that

brought him back to Palermo, she went, it is reported, in a private boat, along side. The Prince, recognizing her, hastened to present himself; but she spurned him away, in a passion of grief and vexation, bitterly upbraiding him with the mortification which he had added to the misfortunes of the family.

The chief merit of the King is his good-nature, of which he possesses an abundant portion. He is, I think, very popular among the Sicilians; who, in no small degree, manifest the same characteristic as their sovereign. Not taking any active part in the proceedings of the government, he escapes the odium of its measures; and he has, occasionally, interfered in cases of particular grievance, in a way that has obtained the applause of his people; so that, in those acts where he has appeared at all as the monarch, he has been always seen to advantage. I have been told that he is partial to our national character, and not even irritated at the freedom with which his own conduct has been treated by some of our writers. An anecdote, which I have heard, serves to illustrate both this part of his character and his constitutional good humour. A party of English officers and gentlemen were dining together in a house situated over a gateway through which carriages pass in going to one of the theatres. It was in the winter-time, and they had a wood fire. Just at the moment when the royal carriages were approaching, one of the company, in frolic, happened to fling a burning stick at another, who, in warding it off, threw it out of the window, and it fell on the King's coach. In an instant the house was filled with guards. The simple fact of the accident was told to the officer, who immediately reported it to the king. "O, very

well," said Ferdinand, "let them alone; they are only drunk;" and accordingly no farther notice was taken of the affair.

The hereditary prince is seldom the subject of conversation, being known merely as a man of quiet manners and domestic habits.

Considering how much the Government of Sicily is indebted to Great Britain, we ought to possess a greater influence in the direction of its public measures than we have yet obtained. That the queen has hitherto resisted all interference of this kind is not surprizing, when we consider the character of the persons to whom the management of our affairs in Sicily has been entrusted. However respectable as private individuals, none of them have been men likely to carry that authority, as statesmen, which was necessary to overawe the intriguing spirit of the Neapolitan Court. Diffidence is not a diplomatic virtue; but, for some strange reason or another, it would appear that we think our foreign ministers should be the meekest spirits in the nation.

None of the Sicilian statesmen, during the first time that I was in the island, were spoken of as persons of much capacity, nor did I find that they had improved in reputation when I returned the second time. The talents of the queen kept them in a state of inferiority, from which they had not energy enough to rise. They were allowed, however, to possess a kind of prudence, which tempered the impassioned conduct of the queen; but it was alleged to have in it more cunning than wisdom. The school, indeed, in which they had been educated, was not calculated to prepare them for that manly course of action to which they have been called in latter times; nor to fit them for an intercourse, which subjected their conduct to the scrutiny

of the British public. The kingdom of Naples, standing out of the vortex of European politics, was, for a long time before the French revolution, not involved in hostility with any great power. The opportunities for promotion in the Court were, in consequence, few; and the avenues to distinction, full of rubbish. The road to place was by the toll-bar of corruption; and success, even at the tribunals of justice, was obtained only by the advocacy of fees. The government had rarely occasion to undertake any enterprise in which it was necessary to consider the popular sentiments; and the people little regarded the proceedings of the government. To prevent scarcity, and to keep the peace during the public spectacles, seemed to be all the duty of the government of Naples. Still it was expedient, that it should have the shew, at least, of greater affairs; and the ministers and courtiers, to maintain their consequence, were obliged to throw over their petty concerns a veil of mystery, which magnified them, not only to the eye of the public, but even deceived themselves. From this artificial and sinister course of proceeding, grew that sceptical and derelict habit of thinking and acting, which all travellers have represented as more peculiar to the Neapolitan statesmen than to any other people. Every thing about the court of Naples was managed with the dexterity and providence of intrigue and conspiracy. All was in masque; and truth, and honour, and justice, when they appeared in their native fairness, were regarded, like every thing else, only as painted artifices, and treated as such. In many points, the court of Palermo resembles this disagreeable portrait; and the change in political relations, since we obtained the military possession of the island, ought to prepare us for unsatisfactory

events. In her double tie, of grand aunt and grandmother to the Empress of France, the Queen may reasonably calculate on participating in the favour of Napoleon; especially as his systematic endeavours to establish a corporative despotism over the continent, embrace all his domestic relations. It is, therefore, natural, that, if she can obtain security, by acquiescing in the views of her new relation, she should not only relax in her professions of regard for us, but give way to those feelings, which the frank-speaking spirit of the British public irritates in the bosom of every continental sovereign. Nor will she be blameable for thus seeking her own interest: the fault will lie on our side, if we do not take care to prevent the disgrace of such a desertion. Self-interest is the motive of all alliance; and care should be taken, that the sacrifices, which we have made for the Sicilian court, shall yield their expected and just equivalent.

MONT REALE.

When I had satisfied my curiosity respecting Palermo, I proceeded to make the tour of the Val di Mazzara, the western district of Sicily. On reaching Mont Realé, which is only four or five English miles from the capital, I resolved, having heard a great deal of the Mosaic ornaments in the cathedral, to pay it a visit. The architecture is in a mongrel style: columns of the classic orders supporting Gothic arches. As for the Mosaic pictures, they are not worth the trouble of putting on one's spectacles to look at. The subjects seem chiefly to represent passages in the Pentateuch. The ark is a thing like a brute beast; and there are angels, or rather fantasies with wings,

like unto nothing in the heavens above, nor in the earth beneath, nor in the waters under the earth — no, nor any where else.

The city of Mont Realé is but a mean place; and, being the seat of an archbishop, is, of course, grievously infested with clergy. They have had the assurance, lately, to begin the construction of another large church; but it is not likely that they will now have the felicity to finish it.

LASALA, ALCAMO, AND SEGESTA.

After leaving Mont Realé, the appearance of the country becomes wild and dreary. There is but little grandeur in the aspect of the hills, to compensate the traveller for their nakedness and poverty. But as the road winds down the steeps towards Lasala, the prospect of a fertile country gradually opens, and the town, at a distance, appears to be a place of respectability. Here, on account of rain, I was obliged to halt; and, going into a little coffee-house, which was kept by a man who had been a servant to an English gentleman, I requested him, by way of passing the time, to make me tea. Observing the landlady busily employed over a pot, which appeared to be full of perywinkles of an extraordinary size, I began to think of asking for a few; and, by way of preliminary, requested to look at them. They were snails. The landlord said, that if I was obliged to stay the remainder of the day, he had a parcel still better, which he would dress for my dinner. "Minced, and mixed with crumbs of bread and grated cheese, they make," said he, "a delicate dish." This threat only served to quicken my desire to depart.

While the letica was getting ready, I walked through Lasala,

which, though not answering the expectation inspired by the splendour of its distant appearance, is still a very decent country town. The population may be about three thousand souls. It has a theatre; and I observed an opera and ballet announced for the evening. This, if any thing could, would have tempted me to stay; for a company of Sicilian strolling players must certainly beggar description.

The new road, from Palermo to Lasala, is so good, that it would not discredit England; but it terminates at the latter town. About half way from Lasala to Alcamo, I crossed the little river Diato, by a bridge, which, by an inscription upon it, appears to have been erected in the sixteenth century. At that time, it is probable, the old road was made; part of the pavement of which I had observed in several places as I came along. Owing to the great depth of the vegetable mould in this country, it is necessary to pave the roads through the valleys; and no repairs being, consequently, required for many years, the funds appropriated to this purpose become diverted to other uses. For defraying the expence of the roads which are now making from Palermo through the interior, a duty was at first levied on the exports of produce; but it has judiciously been converted into a small assessment on cattle and territorial property.

Alcamo, like the greater part of the old Sicilian towns, is situated on the brow of a lofty hill. The walls, battlements, and churches, present an imposing appearance, but the first peep within the gate dissipates the admiration of the traveller. The prospect, however, mends on entering, for it contains several handsome houses; and the inn, for a Sicilian locanda, is not bad.

The immediate neighbourhood of Alcamo is in a tolerable state

of cultivation; but on approaching the ruins of Segesta, the scenery becomes more rugged, the land is neglected, and the mountains are lonely and desolate. The ruins of the temple have, like those of Agrigentum, been re-edified by his present majesty.

Soon after leaving the temple of Segesta, I observed a very interesting specimen of Sicilian agricultural industry. On one field, eleven pairs of oxen were dragging eleven ploughs, driven by eleven men, all in a line, one behind another, and yet not making a deeper impression on the soil than a good English harrow would have done. The Sicilian plough, notwithstanding the antiquity of its form, is really a very humble instrument. Owing, in a good measure, to the wretched state of the plough, the fertility of the Sicilian soil is never properly brought into action. The mere surface of the ground is only, as it were, scratched. Is it, therefore, surprising, that the produce is scanty, or that the harvest is seldom more than adequate to the support of the inhabitants; although it might be rendered sufficient to maintain more than three times their number?

TRAPANI.

Trapani, in point of consequence, is the fourth city in Sicily. It is well built, and contains several handsome edifices, both secular and ecclesiastical. The fortifications are respectable; and formidable additions are now making to them. It might, indeed, be easily made very strong, as it stands on a peninsula. But, while it is supplied with water by an aqueduct, redoubts and ramparts are useless. If but a single arch be thrown down, the place must surrender. The population is estimated at about thirty thousand souls, and the

natives have long been celebrated for their proficiency in the fine arts. The Marina, as the space on the outside of the walls, towards the sea, is called, if not so large as that of Palermo, is more various in the prospects that it affords. Numerous mounds of salt, on the shore beyond the harbour, appear like the pavilions of an army; and the Ægadean islands in the offing, give a pleasing variety to the view of the Mediterranean.

Trapani is one of those kind of places, which I had imagined existed no longer. It is an Italian town in the style of the sixteenth century. It has an academy of design, and two literary societies, which have also the title of academies. This place has been the mother of so many eminent artists, who have ornamented it with their earliest productions, that it would be unpardonable to pass them without notice. Erranti, one of the most admired, if not the most eminent, of all the living painters, is a native of this town. In Italy, where the excellence of pictures is so well understood, several of his works are regarded as little inferior to those of Raphael. A few pieces which he painted before going to Rome, are in the possession of persons who, at the time, were his companions; though evidently juvenile essays, they, undoubtedly, indicate a genius, peculiarly sensible to, what may be called, the serene sublime. He was the son of a shoemaker, and very early manifested a decided disposition to drawing, but his father obliged him to follow his own profession; nor was it till after he had spoiled a great deal of leather by scratching figures on it with an awl, that he was permitted to indulge the invincible propensity of his genius. He was six and twenty years of age before he went to Rome. Erranti, at present, resides in Milan, from which, three

of his pictures were sent to the imperial gallery in Paris, where they are esteemed among its greatest ornaments. The war has, hitherto, prevented his being known in England. Several years ago, some notice was taken of his works in the London Morning Post newspaper; but I have not heard that any of his pictures have yet come among us. Erranti is in correspondence with the gentleman at whose house I had the pleasure of staying in Trapani; and wrote to him lately, that, having done something for fame and fortune to himself, he intended now to execute a work that should be useful to others. The subject he has fixed upon, is, perhaps, the very best that could have been chosen for the purpose. It is the damsels displaying their naked charms before Zeuxis.

The greatest curiosity in this town, perhaps in Europe, is the oratory of the church of St. Michael. It is, indeed, a most tremendous chamber. The place in which the incarnated devils of the Spanish inquisition held their sittings, in all the plenitude of their iniquity, could not be more terrific. It contains about a dozen niches, and in each is placed a group of human figures, of the natural size, representing an event or passage in the sufferings of Christ. If considered only as exhibiting an innocent man under persecution, or even but as the different stages of a criminal's punishment, they cannot be contemplated without inspiring a strong degree of horror. The group which seemed to me the least terrible, and in the best taste, is that which represents the temporary apostacy of Peter. The time chosen by the artist is the crowing of the cock. Jesus is conducted by a band of soldiers from the house of Pilate, and, passing his faithless friend, looks at him with a countenance full of com-

passion. The consternation and contrition of the apostate is beyond all praise, simple and impressive. These surprising sculptures are, unfortunately, of wood. They are, chiefly, the works of Tipa, a native of Trapani—the same artist who executed a much admired St. Michael, in the imperial collections of Vienna. The present king of Sicily, being informed that the surviving relations of this artist were in very humble circumstances, some years ago bestowed a pension on the representative of the family; and, notwithstanding his own great pecuniary embarrassments, it has always been regularly paid.

The church of St. Lorenzo here, was planned by a Trapanese architect of the name of Amico, who published, at Palermo, a collection of his own designs; which, I am told, is esteemed even by the Roman virtuosi. The church, were it fully completed, would certainly be a handsome edifice. There are so many productions, both in sculpture and painting, of considerable merit, the work of native artists, that it would be tedious to enumerate them: there is, in fact, at Trapani, a sufficient number to amuse the general traveller two or three days, and the student still longer.

Though but of small commercial importance at present, Trapani is also not unworthy the attention of the merchant. It is the principal town of the Val di Mazzara, the most productive province of Sicily; but, for a long period, it has been a place to which vessels have resorted merely for the produce of the adjacent country. The great staple of its commerce is salt, vast quantities of which are annually prepared in the immediate vicinity. About a thousand tons of barilla, when the crop is good, are also exported; and the wine of

the adjacent district is getting into repute, both in England and America. Within the city, there is an inconsiderable silk manufactory; but the looms are in a very rude state, and the stuffs are, of course, inferior. There is also a tan-work: but the produce of it is only fit for the coarsest purposes. The polishing of the coral which is fished up on this part of the coast, and the engraving of intaglios upon shells, no stranger can well avoid seeing; for he will not be allowed to rest many hours in the town, till he finds himself beset with solicitations to purchase. The intaglios are beautiful, and very cheap; and he must have tied his purse well, who resists the temptation to buy. There are also shops, where little statues of alabaster are made, some of which are singularly well executed.

In passing through a mean lane of this town, I was surprised by an incident, that has several times since amused my imagination. A fat plain-looking woman, spinning with a distaff at her window, was singing to herself, with all the flourishes and elegance of a well-taught public singer. I halted for a short time, to listen; and was about to conclude, hypothetically, that it was not in painting and sculpture only that the Trapanese excelled; when the gentleman, who had taken the trouble of acting as my Cicerone, said, that she was the prima donna of the theatre, and esteemed one of the best singers in the kingdom; but prevented from promotion by the uncouth size of her figure. An opera singer industriously spinning, was certainly a rare sight; and I turned round, and looked again. This woman was the first Sicilian that I had heard singing off the stage; and I am not a little at a loss to discover upon what possible grounds the nation can be considered

musical. I scarcely remember to have heard one of the common people attempting to whistle a tune. When we returned home, I found assembled several friends of the family with whom I resided, all anxious to hear descriptions of London. I mentioned its population of a million of inhabitants; its circumference, commonly estimated at twenty miles; its spacious squares; the uniformity and neatness of the houses; the vast docks; the stupendous bridges; and the innumerable vessels which cover the surface of the Thames. All this was fully credited, nor thought in any degree exaggerated, till I happened to say, alluding to the circumstances of the Opera singers, that Catalani was paid about five thousand pounds for singing only during the winter. I could then clearly perceive, by the astonishment which this statement excited, that the greatest part of what I had been saying would be discredited. Opulent and prodigal as the inhabitants of London are known to be, it is a fact in its own nature improbable, that the salary of a singer should be as great as that of the first minister of the British nation. That a favourite actress should become enormously rich, could not be doubted, for such things have happened even in this mendicant island; but it was always owing to numerous spendthrift lovers, and never to professional emolument. The salary of the Prima Donna of the Theatre of Trapani is about thirty pounds sterling *per annum*, and her benefit is worth half as much more.

LITERATURE.

The state of Literature in Sicily must, I suspect, be considered as very low; but the cause should be ascribed rather, perhaps, to the cir-

cumstance of the country having been, till lately, only a province of a greater kingdom, than to the want of opportunities of acquiring learning, or to any deficiency of genius in the people. As the literary men of Ireland and Scotland used formerly to resort to London, those of Sicily, probably, went to Naples. I say probably, more because I think the thing would naturally be so, than from any positive information that I have obtained. Besides this, the language is still considered but a provincial dialect; and a Sicilian, in fact, uses a foreign language when he writes in Italian. It is less, I conceive, by the number of publications than by the number of readers, that the state of learning in a country is to be estimated. What proportion the number of readers in Sicily may bear to those in any other European country, I have not the means of even conjecturing. But I may venture to affirm, that Sicilian will soon be added to the number of the polished languages of Europe. A dictionary, in five volumes, quarto, has been published, and there are several poets who have used the language with success; particularly Don Giovanni Meli, of Palermo, whose odes are highly esteemed. He has also written several papers in prose with much classical propriety. Indeed the number of authors is already sufficient to raise the Sicilian tongue from its provincial inferiority, and even, perhaps, to render it worthy the attention of a scholar.

Of the two literary societies in Trapani, one is very antient. It was originally called the *Academia della Lima*, but now it is named the *Academia della Civetta:* since the institution of the other, however, which bears the more assuming title of the *Academia del Discernimento*, it has lost much of its former importance.

The *Academia del Discernimento* is composed of the principal persons of the place, who assemble, at stated times, during the winter, in the Town Hall, where such of the members as are productive geniuses read their essays. Two censors are appointed annually, whose duty is to show to the authors the blemishes that are discovered in their compositions, and otherwise to assist the president in managing the affairs of the society.

Besides the two societies, there is a respectably endowed college, the professors of which are said to be well-informed men. As they do not form a university, they have not the privilege of conferring degrees; but they teach all the different branches of knowledge usually taught in universities.

MARSALA.

After passing the Trapanese salt mounds, the road to this place lies, for a considerable part of the way, through a very pleasant country. A number of pretty little white-washed cottages are seen smirking, as it were, among inclosures, and the prospect, for several miles, would not discredit the ordinary parts of England. The old line of road is so little effaced, that, if the briers were cut down, and the rubbish, which has accumulated between the paths, were levelled, it would still do very well for the few travellers who pass along it. I saw none but two sturdy capuchins, who had been begging over the country, and were returning to their convent with well-filled wallets, with which they had loaded a mule.

The appearance of Marsala, at a little distance, is rather calculated to raise agreeable expectations, which, on entering the gates,

are instantly dissipated: for, although it contains several respectable private houses, and the churches are handsome, the generality of the buildings are mean, and the streets narrow. The great church is planned on a very magnificent scale, but has never been finished; and, in all probability, never will.

The wine, prepared in the neighbourhood by an English concern, is well known; and, though, perhaps, not equal in flavour to many other kinds of the Sicilian wines, has tended to shew that it has been more owing to the want of care, in preparing them for exportation, than to any inferiority of quality, that the wines of this island have had so little reputation among us.

MAZZARA.

A great part of the road from Marsala to Mazzara lies across a waste as desolate as Hounslow-heath, and equally susceptible of cultivation. The town, like all the Sicilian towns, is, for its extent, abundantly showy at a distance. The fortifications, being in the oldest and most obsolete style, have a formidable aspect, but nothing more. The town within is a collection of relicks and rubbish. The recess of the high altar in the Cathedral is decorated with several well-executed Trapanese statues, and an impious representation of the Deity in the shape of a huge incumbent giant. In one of the lesser churches I saw, for the first time, a cadavery—a large well-lighted room, containing about a hundred dead men, women, and children, placed without any veil or mask to hide the horrible look with which they seemed to regard the living. Some of them are in niches; others are lying on the floor. Some are yet entire;

others are half mouldered away. The mode of preparing the dead for this hideous and disgusting exhibition is very simple. The body, cleansed from the bowels, is placed in a vault, from which the air is carefully shut out. In the course of three months the whole moisture is exuded, and the corpse, having become quite dry, is then removed into the cadavery.

The population of Mazzara is, probably, about three thousand souls; and, though the seat of the Bishop, the place is much inferior, both in size and consequence, to Marsala. In this town the church has certainly made great progress in decay. Several convents are almost tenantless; and others have actually become entirely uninhabitable. There is scarcely any other trade than what is conducted by an English merchant, who has formed a wine establishment here. About the cathedral there are a few scraps and shreds which might please an antiquary to look at.

SCIACCA.

The road to Sciacca proved more interesting than, perhaps, I should have found it had my information been more correct. The ruins of Salinuntum lie on the right hand, about five English miles distant from the direct road; and they are certainly worth going fully that distance to see. They were the first ruins, I had seen in Sicily, that gave me that kind of pleasure which one expects from viewing the remains of antiquity. The temples of Agrigentum and Segesta having been, in a great measure, rebuilt, afforded me, comparatively, but little satisfaction. Those, however, of Salinuntum, lying shapeless and desolate, on a lonely promontory, corresponded,

exactly, to the idea that I had formed of the remains of a city destroyed many ages ago. The ruins consist of huge piles of broken pillars, of the most extraordinary dimensions. I measured a capital, a single stone, still entire, and found it fully more than twelve feet square. I also measured a stone, one of the lintels of the same edifice to which the capital belonged, and found it several inches more than two and twenty feet in length, five in breadth, and three in thickness. How such prodigious masses were lifted into the air is not easy to be conceived; but Sicily disputes with Samos the honour of having given birth to Archimedes. I traced, without difficulty, the bounds of two other temples, which seem to have been more ornamented: though, of smaller dimensions, they are surprizing monuments of antient labour.

Leaving Salinuntum, the road, for several miles, lies through a sort of underwood forest, in which I observed the wild pear-tree, and several of our most beautiful shrubs and flowers in the natural state. After quitting this tract, we reached the steep banks of a stream, where the surrounding country seemed well calculated to form a back-ground to some of Salvator Rosa's banditti, and I began to think of robbers. Having passed down the side of the stream about a mile, I saw a bridge of two arches before us. One of the arches had fallen in, but the road was carried across by trunks of trees and pieces of timber rudely placed together. On turning to go over, I perceived a kind of gate at the farther end. A little beyond it was a house, lonely and ruinous; from behind which appeared, as we crossed the bridge, a tall stout fellow, in a tawdry uniform. He had on a leather cap, more like a huntsman's than a soldier's, with a plate

of metal glittering on the front of it. He wore a short grey jacket, and his waiscoat had been scarlet, but the weather had changed its colour, and tarnished the gold lace with which it had been richly ornamented. At his belt, made of goat-skin with the hair on, hung a clumsy sword, and an ammunition-bag. I had scarcely made these observations, when I discovered a long old-fashioned gun standing at the door of the house. A boy, whom I had not before observed, ran suddenly in; and, in a moment after, a third fellow, bare headed, looked out. The man in the uniform, as we passed the gate, came up, and, stopping the Jetica, demanded money, and I paid the toll. This is the only establishment of the kind that I met with in Sicily.

With the appearance of Sciacca, when I saw it from the packet in passing the coast, I had been much pleased; but a nearer inspection produced only disappointment. The buildings that seemed so magnificent, are, it is true, palaces and monasteries, but they are either roofless or deserted, and in the last stage of dilapidation. The whole town, like Mazzara, bears indubitable marks, not of decay only, but, of ruin. How should it be otherwise? The population does not probably exceed six thousand persons, and it contains four nunneries, sixteen convents, five attorneys, about twenty doctors and apothecaries, a duke, four marquises, and sixteen barons.

The trade of Sciacca is confined to the exportation of the produce of the country and of the sulphur mines in the neighbourhood. I did not learn that it had any manufactories; for I do not consider the domestic industry of the women as entitled to that appellation.

Sciacca must, I imagine, be noticed as "a city fortified." It has walls and gates, the state of which may be easily conceived by mentioning the strength of the garrison, which consists of five men, militia officers. The whole males of the town are enrolled volunteers, but they are neither armed nor disciplined. The natural hot baths here are famous for their efficacy in curing scorbutic affections.

In passing along one of the streets a house was pointed out to me as having been inhabited by Rosa the painter. What Rosa, or any thing more about him, my conductor could not tell. Whether this was Salvator, whose paintings so frequently reminded me of the scenery of Sicily, I cannot, therefore, presume to say. Salvator Rosa, I have always understood, studied in Calabria; but I have never met with any circumstantial account of his life. It is not improbable that he may have been here; for, in his youth, he was a rambling fellow, and, it is said, was actually a member of a gang of banditti.

ST. MARGARITTA.

It was about mid-day when I left Sciacca, and at sun-set I reached St. Margaritta, a small town in the interior. The locanda or inn, in this place, was one of the very poorest that I met with in Sicily. The sight of it sickened my heart. The walls of the bed-room, as black as a chimney, were scrawled with divers hieroglyphical devices of ships and asses, which I suppose denoted that it had been the occasional abode of sailors and Sicilian peasants. Bed, there was none; but across two blocks of wood a parcel of reeds were laid as a substitute. There were two chairs; but

one of them was bottomless, and the table had lost one of its legs. Had the place been clean, all these defects and deficiencies might have been submitted to; but it was stinkingly filthy, and, being over the stable, was, of course, swarming with vermin. To stay in this hole was out of the question, and I resolved to apply to one of the monasteries, having observed no fewer than three handsome ones on entering the town, although the population of the place does not probably amount to fifteen hundred souls. I accordingly went to one of the Franciscan order. Vespers were not over when I reached the gate; and I was obliged to wait a short time in the cloisters. When the service ended, a Monk came to me; and, being made acquainted with my situation, immediately went for a key, and admitted me into a cell, which he said I might use as long as I wished to stay in the town. He then left me. One of the muleteers who had followed, seeing I was accommodated, returned to fetch my bedding, and store basket, and I sat down on the only chair that the room afforded. The Friar had, in the mean time, announced the arrival of a stranger "to all the house;" and I had not seated myself many seconds, when the cell was filled with the brotherhood. Some of them were contented with a slight look, and retired; others sat down on the bed-side, and on the table, and debated concerning me. They spoke only Sicilian, and I did not understand them; but I endeavoured to make affable faces at them. When the muleteer returned, a peasant came to the door, bawling for the *Capitano Inglese*, as he was pleased to call me. The meaning of this vehement inquiry I could not divine; but, after innumerable signs, and much roaring, as if our difficulty of comprehending each other had been a

real misunderstanding, a friar who spoke French came in, and explained to me, that the peasant had come to beg my interference to procure the release of some others, whom he represented to be volunteers that had been thrown into prison by an officer sent from the Court of Palermo; but that the fellows were, in truth, great rogues. The circumstance of their application to me, and their expectation that an Englishman would be induced to assist them by alleging the oppression of their own Government, sufficiently indicates what are the political notions of the lower class of Sicilians.

Next morning, at day-light, I left the convent, and had not advanced many miles when the rain began to fall in torrents. The wind being high, I was obliged to draw up the blinds of the letica, so that, for the greatest part of the way to the little town of St. Giuseppé, where the great road to Palermo, from this part of the country, commences, I could see nothing. As I approached St. Giuseppé, the wind abated; and, not hearing the pattering of the rain on the roof, I inferred, like Noah in the ark, that the waters were assuaged, and opened a window. The grape-gatherers, having been interrupted by the wetness of the morning, were seen returning to their labour. Their faces were besmeared with the juice; and they were, themselves, as noisy as the ancient bacchanalians on similar occasions. They did not, however, attack me with any ribaldry, according to the privilege of their order; but they were abundantly vociferous in their jests on one another.

The harvest and the vintage are periods of recompence and generosity. The farmer receives the reward of his industry, and

the labourer is paid for his assistance with a freer heart. The hands are filled, and the mind, participating in the abundance, expresses itself with unusual hilarity. It is, therefore, unnecessary to suppose, as some of the pedantic commentators on the allegorical descriptions of the classics have done, that there were any positive legislative institutions for making the slaves merry during the affluent periods of the harvest and vintage.

On entering the village, I observed the labour of the wine-press going on; a process of which a faithful account might enforce the precepts of Temperance. The grapes are thrown into a large square vessel, somewhat like a brewer's cooler, but deeper. It is elevated about eighteen inches from the ground, and round it are several apertures, with vessels under. In this theatre a number of bare-legged peasants, with clumsy shoes, were bellowing and treading out the juice, which squirted against their unwashed limbs; and I saw, with consternation and horror, that the finger and thumb had been made for other ends, in case of need, than to snuff candles. Imagination must supply the rest.

It was late when we approached Palermo, and I began to think that I should not have deemed myself very safe in the neighbourhood either of London or Dublin at such a time of night. About eleven o'clock we reached the gate, and I never was more pleased with the sight of a lamp, than with that which burns before the saint who is the sentinel. It never occurred to me before, that, but for the saints with their lamps, the streets of Palermo would be utterly dark after the shops are shut. The church, in this respect, may certainly be considered as a light to the path of the Palermitans.

In tracing, my nocturnal journey, on the map, I perceived that I had passed one of the five Greek villages, which are in Sicily. The history of these establishments I have never heard well explained; farther than that, about a hundred and fifty years ago, several Albanian families took refuge here from the oppression to which they had been subjected at home. They were followed by others, and by them these little colonies were established. The descendants still wear their national dress, and speak the language of their ancestors.

A JOURNEY.

It was in the month of November that I left Palermo for Messina. The journey is usually performed, by letica-travelling, in four days; but the rains happened to set in with more than ordinary violence, and I was seven on the road. The first stage, after leaving Palermo, is Termini, and thus far the road is excellent.

Termini is situated on the eastern side of a bold promontory, crowned with a castle. Its population is reckoned at twelve thousand souls. It has but little trade; and, though a slovenly town, and, by its situation, on a steep declivity, disagreeable to walk in, upon the whole, it must be regarded as a respectable place for its extent. The baths have, from time immemorial, possessed a high reputation; but the buildings, at present, over the springs, are by no means calculated to please delicate invalids. There are two or three relicks of antiquity in the neighbourhood of the town. A daily stage-coach runs between Palermo and Termini. It is drawn by three horses abreast, a style of harnessing ancient, handsome, and efficient.

Nothing, in this place, attracted my attention so much as the barbers' poles, because they served to satisfy a sort of antiquarian curiosity which I had sometimes felt, to know why barbers' poles, with us, are always painted as if twisted with a ribband. In Termini they are twisted with real ribband in the way that ours are painted; and to this, tresses of hair, of divers colours, and suitable to various complexions, are pinned.

CEFALU.

We halted for the night at Cefalu, where we found a neat cleanly house. I have since lodged in the same place; and the accommodations appeared, in the interval, to have approximated to respectability. The town stands at the foot of a very lofty perpendicular rock, on which embattled walls and buildings have a strikingly picturesque appearance. The country, on the West side of the town, is well cultivated; and the oil, produced from the numerous olive-trees, with which it is covered, is said to be the best in Sicily. It is certainly very good; but, in general, is not perfectly transparent. Some of the country-houses are neat; one in particular, which stands in an inclosed park, about two miles from the town, would, even in England, be regarded as a handsome manorial mansion. The town is pretty well built, but the streets are narrow. The population is estimated at ten thousand souls. The cathedral is, apparently, a cotemporary with that of Montrealé. It is built in the same style, and ornamented with similar mosaic pictures. One or two of the paintings over the altars are tolerably good; but its greatest ornament, and one of the very finest things in all Sicily, is the tomb of a

late bishop. No monument in Westminster Abbey is equal to it in propriety of design, or superior in beauty of execution. The subject is, the bishop distributing alms: a venerable and dignified figure, in the flowing drapery of his order, giving a shirt to a naked infirm cripple. With this, the artist should have been content. Nothing can be imagined more natural than these two figures. The cripple is, indeed, an excellent statue. The shirt which he is receiving, has the lightness and easy folds of linen. The bishop, though less eloquent, if the expression may be permitted, than Sir Isaac Newton in Cambridge, the finest statue in England, may, I should think, without any disparagement, be compared with it. Two mendicant children, a boy and a girl, complete the group. They are finished, with a beauty and felicity not inferior to the other two figures; but they rather tend to divert the spectator's attention from the action. The design of this monument appears to me a legitimate subject for sculpture. Angels and spirits, of any sort or shape, certainly ought never to be placed on the same pedestals with mortals; because, it is not possible for the chissel to endow them with that airiness of appearance which is essential to mark the difference between them and the beings of this world. One can hardly think, without shrinking, of the ridiculous idea which posterity must entertain of our taste in sculpture, by the Britannias, Fames, and other horrible images, which will scare them from looking at our national monuments. There are two cheesemongers, with wings, in St. Paul's, exhibiting a couple of double Gloucesters, on which, strange drawings of two naval officers have been scratched! They ought to have had their heads broken by the first stone-cutter's apprentice that happened to see them. When it is considered, that

the British nation gives more money for the monuments of its public men, than all the other states of the world, put together, allow for the encouragement of sculpture, it is wonderful that the art is in so mean a state among us. Since the commencement of the late war, a greater sum has been voted by Parliament for these subjects, than, perhaps, the whole amount of what Leo X. laid out on all his artists; and yet we have not obtained one statue above mediocrity. From whatever cause arising, it seems clear, to me, at least, that the inferiority of the British artists, is not owing to want of encouragement. In no part of the world are the productions of the fine arts more sought after than in London, nor higher prices given for them. If old works be preferred, let us not be told that it is merely on account of their name, until we have seen our native artists equal them.

Among a crowd of beggars, by whom we were beset at departure, were two hideous wretches, devoured by the leprosy. One of them was reduced to the most frightful spectacle in which the human form can be retained. His skin was shrunk and black; his neck and limbs swollen, and covered with a disgusting crust; and his teeth, long and yellow, seemed to be only sticking in a mass of putrefaction. Yet he could articulate; but his tones were, if possible, more horrible than his figure. Instead of exciting compassion, they only inspired abhorrence. Never having before witnessed a case of this terrible disease, I was fascinated, as it were, by the perfection of misery; and could not, in spite of a strong sensation of disgust, refrain from looking at him.

PINALE.

We were obliged, in consequence of a torrent from the hills, to stop at this place. A priest, who lives, in a hermit state, near a watch tower, on the sea shore, allowed us to lodge in his house. On the summit of a neighbouring mountain, the little town of Pollini is situated. The priest told us, that it contained a few fragments of antiquity, supposed to be older than the time of the Roman conquest. In the morning we forded the stream, not without the hazard of a ducking.

ST. STEPHANO.

The road to this town is very bad. A gentleman, with whom I had travelled from Palermo, having a letter to the bishop, we received an invitation to lodge with him. The town is a poor uninteresting place; standing, like the generality of Sicilian villages, on the brow of a steep hill; but episcopalian fare, delicious wine, and elegant apartments, would have made a Greenland village agreeable. Our host was a facetious little man,

"With twinkling eyes, and visage chubby.

He corrected himself on inquiring if we were Christians, by remarking, that the difference between the Roman and English churches consisted only in etiquette.

The process of extracting oil from the olives, was going on in one of his out-houses, and we went to see it. The fruit was first crushed under an edge-stone, put in motion by an ass; then gathered, and, after being slightly heated in a caldron, put into baskets resembling fig frails, and placed in the press. The juice was expressed into a tub half full

of water below. The oil swims on the surface, is skimmed off into jars and butts, and is fit for immediate use or exportation. The bishop informed us, that the quality of the oil depends more on a careful assortment of the olives, than upon any peculiarity of the soil on which they grow, or art in the process. His servants make three different kinds. They pick out the best fruit, of which the first quality is made; and from the refuse, the third kind is manufactured. The second quality is made of the promiscuous fruit. This method is commonly practised in Sicily, and is, perhaps, the only cause of the general inferiority of the Sicilian oil. The extra labourers were paid at the rate of two pence a day.

ST. MARCO.

From St. Stephano we came, next day, to St. Agatha, where we saw a little fair of earthen-wares and toys. There was no jollity or merry-making, such as one sees, on similar occasions, among our own country folk. We passed, indeed, one raree-shewman, who had been there, and was strolling, with the theatre on his back, towards Melazzo. The evening proving fine, instead of stopping here, as we had intended, we proceeded to St. Marco, a small fishing village, where our accommodations were in comfortless contrast to those of the preceding night. Travelling instructs one in the vicissitudes of fortune. The hardships of a journey differ in nothing, while they last, from the effects of adversity; nor its temporary pleasures, from the mutable favours of prosperity.

PATI.

The weather, in the morning, was fair, and the air clear. When we reached the heights of Cape Orlando, we discovered the mountains of Italy; and I obtained, for the first time, the sight of an active volcano. Strombolo was seen, with a column of white aqueous smoke, which formed a cloud over it, that bore some resemblance, in outline, to a stupendous oak tree. The island itself is of a beautiful conical figure.

The whole of this day's journey was truly delightful. The appearance of passing vessels varied the sameness of the sea, on the one hand; and valleys here and there, opening between the mountains, afforded several agreeable vistas, of the interior of the country, on the other. In the evening we reached Pati, a town somewhat distinguished for the fertility and beauty of its environs. As there was no lodging to be procured at the inn, on account of a wedding there, we went to the Franciscan monastery, where we readily obtained every kind of accommodation that the house afforded. I was pleased with the necessity of our application to this convent, as I was desirous of seeing a little more of monastic life, and grudged the opportunity which I lost at St. Margaritta, of seeing the monks assembled in the refectory. The Franciscans of Pati were, in what respected their house, inferior to those with whom I formerly lodged. They were, however, all very obliging. In general, I have found that the monks of this order are, commonly, peasants, who profess themselves only for an easy life. We supped in the refectory. It was a large vaulted chamber, lighted by two old-fashioned lamps. Across the upper

end were placed two tables, one of which was covered with linen, and furnished, in addition to the articles on the other, with two flaggons of wine. This was destined for us. The other, at which sat the superior, and two stranger friars, was not covered. Along each side of the room were other tables, for the brethren and servants. The scene was just like a dinner of one of the monkish fraternities of Oxford or Cambridge.

BARCELONA.

Barcelona is a straggling town, containing, probably, five thousand inhabitants. We saw here a party of British dragoons, and could not, without pride, observe the superiority of their figures to those of the Sicilians.

There is a small quantity of silk manufactured here, for sale; but the chief article of trade is earthenware, which, for its purposes, is etruscanly light and elegant. The material used by the potters, is, chiefly, the vegetable soil of the vicinity, mixed with clay. When burnt, it assumes a light drab colour. Some of the jars were ornamented with the black outline of flowers, and other forms, in the style of the ancient vases.

FUNDACCO NUOVO.

From Barcelona, leaving the peninsular fortress of Melazzo on the left, about three miles distant, we proceeded towards a place called Fundacco Nuovo, — the New Inn. As it happens to be half way between the two principal British stations, Melazzo and Messina, we concluded, in our own minds, that it must be a comfortable house.

This erroneous hypothesis induced us to decline an invitation to dinner, which an English officer, as we passed through Spadafora, had the politeness and sense to offer us. He knew the sort of place to which we were going.

On our arrival at this Fundacco Nuovo, which we reached about half an hour after sunset, we were not a little disappointed at finding the most despicable habitation that we had yet seen. We could scarcely procure any thing to eat; the wine was new, and the apartment, which opened from the stable, had been whitewashed, perhaps twenty years before. The house was kept by a young couple; but, though we could admit the apology of their want of means to buy furniture, it was impossible to allow the validity of their excuses for the dirtiness of the room. We slept in our leticas. Twenty months after, when I revisited this place, I found that the room had been whitewashed. Unable to sleep, we got up about two o'clock in the morning, and, before the dawn, reached the heights which overlook the straits of Messina, where we saw, distinctly, along the Calabrian shore, the morning fires of the inhabitants. The road down the mountains, we were told, was made by the British troops; and is called, by the Sicilians, the Strada Inglesé. The British call it Corkscrew-hill Road; and the appearance of the descent, seen from above, fully evinces the propriety of this name.

MESSINA.

Messina, unlike every other town in Sicily, has, at present, the appearance of great prosperity. The ruins, occasioned by the earthquake, in 1783, are fast removing, and buildings, not inferior to those

which were destroyed, are now, every where, making their appearance. The Marina still presents the most impressive monuments of that terrible calamity; but, in a short time, it will, probably, retain as few as the other quarters of the town; if a recurrence of the cause do not again involve it in a similar destruction. The prosperous state of this city, since the arrival of our troops, is an excellent proof of our national superiority. Notwithstanding all the great and numerous defects of our official foreign policy, it is truly gratifying to perceive, that wherever our countrymen obtain a settlement, they never fail to improve the state of society, and, ultimately, the character, both of the people and their rulers.

Here, as in Palermo, the British complain much of the imperfect manner in which justice is administered, even in cases of the most flagrant nature. Not long since, in consequence of an Englishman having been robbed and murdered in the streets, our merchants came forward, collectively, and asserted the claims of justice, in a way that could not but leave a salutary impression, both on the government and the people. Three persons had been apprehended, on suspicion of having committed the crime; and, after much equivocation and delay, they were found guilty. Their relations and confederates endeavoured to prevent the execution of the sentence, by offering a ransom; or, more properly, by bribery. This so provoked the British, that they subscribed a sum of money sufficient to enable them to contend against such a manifest corruption of justice, and procured the execution of the criminals.

The British have a set of reading rooms, where the English newspapers are taken in. I was informed, that the Sicilians are not

permitted to frequent them, or, rather, perhaps, they were deterred, by the dread of being considered, by the government, as persons of suspicious political opinions. If this be the fact, the government acts very weakly. So striking a proof of thraldom, compared with the freedom of the British, cannot but produce the very effect on the minds of the Sicilians, which the prohibition is meant to prevent.

The difference between the British and the Sicilian character, is, here, very obvious. The British are so accustomed to think for themselves, and to speak of their rulers without fear or deference, that, though, here, only strangers, they act precisely as they would do at home; and, by taking it as, of course, belonging to them, they actually possess more liberty than the natives.

The produce of the environs of Messina, consists of fruits and wines. The Pharo red wine is rising in reputation; and, when old, is not unlike port. The situation of the town is very advantageous for trade; but seamen complain, that the harbour has been too deep since the great earthquake, at which time the bottom fell in several fathoms. It is, nevertheless, a very fine and secure bason. The silks woven in Messina are not very remarkable, either for elegance or cheapness. It is surprising, considering the vicinity of Sicily to Turkey, that it manufactures no stuffs suitable for the markets of that empire.

The state of the theatre in Messina is very poor. Tragedies are generally performed on the Friday evenings. Formerly, the theatres were shut on that night; but, since the Italian drama has been so admirably improved by Alfieri, the theatres have, in many places, been allowed to be opened on the Fridays, for tragedies.

In one of the churches I saw a dead friar, laid out in the habit of his order. At first, I thought it a figure of wax, and was about to give great praise to the artist, when a gentleman, who was with me, happened to inquire of one of the bystanders, how long the body had been there. As it is the business of the clergy to admonish the rest of mankind to prepare for death, the custom, of laying out their dead brethren in the churches, may be capable of some excuse; but, in this warm climate it should not be permitted.

In going to the Pharo, by water, I was amused by a species of labour, which, in a country where rocks are superabundant, seemed to me very thriftless. I happened to observe a boat passing slowly along the shore, with two men on board. One rested, every other minute or two, on his oars, while his companion appeared as if he pushed the boat forward with a pole. This alternate work induced me to go nearer; and I found that they were fishing up stones. The pole resembled the shaft of an oar, and had a piece of iron, like a horseshoe, fastened across the end. With this the stones were lifted into the boat.

Messina is a town so well known, and has been so often described, that it would be superfluous to enter into any minute description. The ancient judicious regulations for the encouragement of foreigners to settle in this unstable city, have been lately impaired; and the complaints of our merchants, at the shameless negligence with which their concerns have been treated, are becoming, daily, louder and more severe.

The present population of Messina, is reckoned at upwards of eighty thousand souls, exclusive of the British troops. The scouts

of a certain class of ladies, better understood than described, are uncommonly numerous and enterprizing: they all speak a little English.

The fortress in which Richard Cœur de Leon took up his quarters, when he landed in Sicily, in the course of his passage to the Holy Land, is again occupied by English troops. It is situated on the heights which overlook the southern part of the city. At that time, the Messinese were jealous of the English; and frequent bickerings led to an open and general quarrel, in which the Crusaders pursued the citizens into the town, and planted the English standard on the walls. But the object of the king was not, at that time, the conquest of this island, although it was ruled by a usurper: he, therefore, soon after, abandoned a possession that had been accidentally acquired, and proceeded to the great theatre of his exploits.

TOARMINI.

The road from Messina to Toarmini lies along the shore. For several miles after leaving Messina, the appearance of the country, even in the depth of winter, is delightful. The orange trees are then in full bearing, and the vineyards are dressed. It may be said, that, in Sicily, autumn and spring go hand in hand.

One of the headlands, along which the road winds, is crowned with a romantic military castle, which overlooks the sea at a fearful height. Of what use it can possibly be, I am utterly at a loss to conjecture. It has nothing to protect, and can protect nothing. We had a garrison in it when I passed.

Before reaching the top of the mountain, on which Toarmini is situated, the sun had set; and, by the time we got to the gate, it was quite dark. The locanda, I found better than I had ventured to hope for. While I was taking supper, the Cicerone of the town came to offer his services, which being accepted, without further preface, he began to tell that he was also a poet, and repeated several of his sonnets. He likewise informed me, that there was another Cicerone in the town, whom he advised me to have nothing to do with, as he was an ignorant, impertinent, old man. In the morning he came at the time appointed, and we proceeded to inspect the ruins, which are worth the trouble of inspecting, in fair weather. The theatre is still so entire, that it might yet, largely speaking, be easily repaired. When perfect, it must have been a superb and extensive building. It seems to have been semicircular; and the apartments for refreshments, instead of circumscribing the area, as in the London houses, were constructed under the slope on which the benches for the audience were placed. Nor was so large a proportion allotted to the stage, as in our theatres. The drama of the ancients did not require any change of scene, throughout the whole developement of the performance. The semicircular form, in the construction of their theatres, was, certainly, more favourable to the actors, than the oval of the moderns. None of the spectators, in this edifice, were, probably, further from the stage than the front of the gallery is from the orchestra, in the Opera-house of London; and yet the theatre of Taurominium was capable of containing a greater audience, than, perhaps, all the London theatres put together.

Besides the theatre, there are remains of a naumachia here, and of the reservoirs which supplied the bason with water. Like all the other theatrical exhibitions of the ancients, the spectacles of the naumachia were, certainly, more expensive than those of the modern theatre; but, when it is considered, that the art of perspective painting was unknown to them, it may be doubted if the effect was superior. The name of no ancient landscape painter has descended to posterity.

The population of this city, which was once supposed to exceed a hundred and fifty thousand, does not now amount to five thousand souls. The town is divided by a wall and gateway; and, at the time I was there, a company of the British German legion had possession of it. The environs afford the most romantic views in all Sicily. The country, though rugged and mountainous, presents an agreeable diversity of cultivated scenes, and rural objects; and Etna, with all his regions, is seen from the base to the summit. Toarmini is situated on shelving cliffs, which overlook the sea, nearly opposite to Cape Spartevento. It is a place of no trade.

ETNA.

Having mounted, after viewing the antiquities, I proceeded towards Catania: the rain, however, began to fall copiously, and obliged me to stop at Mascali, a handsome village, in the viny region of Etna. About two o'clock in the morning we set out for Catania. The weather was exceedingly cold; but the darkness enabled me to notice one of the phenomena of the mountain, of which I do not recollect to have heard. Some time before any symptoms of dawn

in the east, a faint, pale, reflected light, was shed from the side of Etna; and it gradually increased to such a degree, that I could almost see the hours on my watch, although the sky was obscured with black clouds. The reflection was, no doubt, the early effect of the morning on the snow, with which the hill was then covered, nearly to the vineyards.

As the dawn opened, I beheld, on all sides, the scoria of the cyclopean furnaces. The appearance of the lava disappointed me. I had expected to see it with some exterior marks of having once been fluent; but it was all in heaps and masses, like a wide precipitation of black and craggy stones. The lava of Etna is, I understand, so very docile and deliberate in its course, that any curious philosopher may approach, and poke it with his stick. The eruption in 1809 was twelve days in coming eight miles; yet, notwithstanding this slow and sluggish pace, it can be compared, in its effects, only to the advance of inevitable death.

The fable of the rape of Proserpine, is, probably, an allegory, descriptive of the destruction of the cultivated land, by an eruption of the mountain. Much of the classic mythology is, evidently, allegorical; and few of its subjects are susceptible of so simple an explanation. The single-eyed Cyclops are, certainly, only the personifications of volcanos. Those parts of Homer's works which relate to them, have, perhaps, had the distinct features of the allegories defaced by his correctors. When the history of the Iliad and Odyssey is considered, it is impossible to believe that they are now the very works which Homer composed. It is not credible, that, from the collection of the parts of the Iliad by Lycurgus, down to the trans-

lation by Pope, it was copied, without improvement; though not to the extent that Pope has improved on Chaucer, in his Temple of Fame — probably, in some similar manner. The edition of the Casket was corrected by Aristotle and Alexander the Great.

The king of Sicily, in bestowing on Lord Nelson the title of Bronté, seems to have indulged his fancy; as it was the name of a one-eyed thunder-making Cyclops.

On my arrival at Catania, I found that it was useless to think of ascending to the crater. The season was too far advanced; and the snow had fallen earlier, and in larger quantities than usual. I, therefore, endeavoured to appease my curiosity, by the persuasion that, probably, very little, worth the trouble of the journey, was to be seen. Besides, a volcano is better calculated to interest a mineralogist than a mere cursory voyager; and Etna, after all that has been said and sung about it, does not, really, possess a tenth part of the aspectable grandeur that one, somehow, expects.

CATANIA.

Catania is, certainly, the finest town in Sicily. The buildings are on a scale of magnificence that far exceeds any idea I had entertained of what Sicily, in its present state, was likely to have produced. The streets, in some places, are equal to those of Bath and Edinburgh. The houses, from being built in large separate structures, give it more variety than is seen in the new buildings of those cities: still it has the characteristics of the country; many of the best edifices are only half finished, and the chief belong to the church. The senate-house, and the two universities, are very handsome; and

the Benedictine monastery excels every other fabric, secular or ecclesiastical, in the island. It was inhabited, when I was there, by sixty friars, of noble birth, a hundred and twenty servants, and a company of the British German legion. The soldiers, every where, indeed, have taken up their quarters in the convents. The library of this fraternity contains many rare books, and the museum is not contemptible. The taste of these blessed brothers for bottled monsters, and other useless articles, is fully as much to be commended as that of their neighbours for old rags and rotten bones. Monks have always been great collectors of curiosities, but seldom so innocently.

About a dozen of other strangers were viewing the museum, when I was there; and, among them, an officer with a star, the admiral, as I was told, of the Sicilian navy. The keeper, in the beginning, was all attention to this star-adorned chief, till he heard of the Englishman. From that moment he annoyed me with his assiduities. The Sicilians give only a bow for sights of this sort; the English give money. Perceiving the motive of his particular civility, I resolved to do exactly like the rest of the company; and, in going out, made him a very handsome bow, and walked on. Before I had gone many paces, he, however, came after me; and, returning the bow, gave me to understand that he expected something more substantial.

The church belonging to this monastery is very grand; were the design completed, it would be one of the largest in Europe. The organ is truly exquisite; and I was fortunate enough to hear the whole extent and variety of its powers. It is said to be the finest in the world: it is, by far, the noblest I ever heard. The effect of

the sonata, which is performed in order to shew the whole genius of the instrument, may be compared to the course of a river from the fountain-head to the sea. It begins with a sweet little trilling movement, like the sound of waters trickling in a far remote pastoral upland. The breadth of harmony increases, and the mind is excited to activity, while the introduction of a delightful echo suggests the images of a rapid stream, and bands of huntsmen, with horns and hounds, coursing the banks. Continuing still to rise and spread, the music takes a more regular character, and fills the imagination with the notion of a Thames, covered with moving vessels, flowing through a multitudinous city. Occasional military movements gradually open all the fountains of the instrument; and the full tide, deepening and rolling on, terminates in a finalé so vast, so various, so extraordinary an effusion of harmony, that it can be compared only to the great expanse of the ocean agitated by a tempest, and the astonishing turbulence of a Trafalgarian battle.

The public library of Catania is one of the greatest ornaments of the city. The collection occupies several large rooms in the plebeian university, and was originally formed by the Jesuits. It is open to strangers, as well as to the inhabitants, and it is numerously frequented by readers of all descriptions.

The ancient theatre and amphitheatre are now subterranean. It is not easy to conceive any notion of their form: with the aid of torches, only vaults and corridores can be seen. The baths of the ancient town also are now under the lava. There are several private museums here; the most famous and various is the Biscarian, which, as a collection of Sicilian antiquities, is an ornament to the nation.

The Catanians appear to be as inflexibly attached to their old modes of building, notwithstanding their equally fatal experience, as the Messinese. Little timber is used in the construction of their houses, which are built to the height of four and five stories. A slight shock must inevitably bring the whole vaulting of the rooms down upon the inconsiderate inhabitants. Having heard much of the inexhaustible forests of this island, I was surprized that such a style of building should continue to be preferred. But, like many other things relative to Sicily, the magnitude of the forests has been ridiculously exaggerated; and the island must be regarded as a country not only very bare of wood, but in great want of it. Planting does not appear to be practised. Scotland, in point of forest scenery, is a sylvan region compared to Sicily.

During the time that I was in Catania, a festival occurred in honour of the Virgin. As her image passed the guard-house, the British soldiers were turned out, and presented arms to the image! I have no comment to make on this illegal iniquity.

The number of ecclesiastics in the town was greater than the number of men in the garrison. The troops were British, and paid by the British nation. The expense of maintaining the monks could not be less than that of the soldiers; so that the British public, it may be said, were paying the ecclesiastics.

The population of Catania is estimated at seventy thousand souls. I should not have supposed, from the first view of the place, that it contained above half that number; but, when I had observed in what manner the people live, the estimate did not appear to have been excessive. The population, on this side of Sicily, has, of late years,

materially increased. It seems, indeed, beyond dispute, that the country is in a gradual state of improvement. Whether this is the effect of the natural powers of society recovering their vigour as the church declines, or of an accidental and temporary exterior impression, I want facts enough to enable me to form an opinion. But the circulation of a million and a half sterling annually, by the British garrisons, must have some influence; at the same time, it should be observed, that the increase of the population was visible before their arrival.

Catania is rather a manufacturing than a trading town. Silk is its great staple; and some of the stuffs, which I saw in the looms, were beautiful. The velvet-workers earn about three shillings of our money per day, and the damask-weavers a little more. The wages are regulated according to the skill, as well as to the industry, of the weavers. In the neighbourhood, along the foot of Etna, large quantities of strong wine are made; and the plain country, to the west of the city, exports several cargoes of grain, barilla, flax, linseed, and linseed-oil. The Port of Catania is unsafe and inconvenient.

LENTINI.

The road, after leaving Catania, is very like the ruins of one; but, with a little labour, it might be rendered tolerable: for there is no better material in the world, either for making or mending roads, than lava. The direct way from Catania to Syracuse, at the time I happened to travel, was impassable, owing to the rains; and I was obliged to go round by Lentini. About two hours and a half,

of letica travelling, I was ferried across the Giarretta (the Simetus of the ancients) the only stream that I saw in Sicily deserving the name of a river. At its mouth are found the rich and rare ambers which the Catanians manufacture into trinkets. One of the principal artificers told me, that those specimens, with perfect flies, and other insects, which are seen in museums, are not natural amber, but preparations of gum. When insects are found in the natural amber, they are all distorted and imperfect. He convinced me of this fact, by shewing me several specimens, of which, the mass appeared to have been formed at different times; for it evidently consisted of different laminæ.

The plain of Catania did not come up to my expectations, either as to extent or cultivation. Sicily is a beautiful island, and the climate is delightful; but when the Sicilians hear us admire the luxury of their air, and variety of their scenery, they should not imagine that we also admit their island to be equal to either of ours. They have as preposterous a notion of the improvability of their country, as they have of the influence of governments.

Governments can only do negative good. Their duty is to protect, not to meddle with, the concerns of individuals. The instinct of private interest, is the spring of public prosperity. Instances are rare, of laws emanating spontaneously from rulers, for the purpose of improving the condition of their subjects. On the contrary, an obvious demand for the improvement, generating a disposition, on the part of the people, to extort it by force, has usually preceded those reformations of abuses, as well as those beneficial institutions, for which politicians have received the gratitude of posterity. The

Sicilians know not what they think, when they imagine, that Laws and a Constitution similar to those of England, would raise them, at once, to an equality with Englishmen. But their discontent is the forerunner of their improvement.

Lentini stands on the scite of the ancient Leontini. It is a small irregular built town; and, being inland, has but little commerce. It contains about four thousand inhabitants. The inn is exemplary to all the country towns of the island. It was built by a nobleman of the neighbourhood. The establishing of inns in remote and desert situations, is truly philanthropic. It is providing for the comfort of the stranger and the unknown; and, in benevolence, is only inferior to the endowment of hospitals. Perhaps, the wretched state of the inns in Sicily, is, partly, owing to the monasteries. Inns are supported by the opulent travellers; and, in this country, the opulent commonly go to the monasteries.

In the town-hall, two large Etruscan vases are preserved, and in the Capuchin convent there is an altar-piece, said to have been painted by Tintoretti. Above the door of a small set of catacombs, a priest pointed out to me a hieroglyphical device, which, he said, was a proof of its having once been the asylum of persecuted Christians.

SYRACUSE.

The road from Lentini, to the remnant of Syracuse, affords various and romantic views; but the country is rugged and waste. The great charm of the journey, and which renders every spot that the traveller passes interesting, is the consciousness of approaching

so celebrated a city. He looks in vain, however, for the remains of those edifices, which formerly extended, for so many miles, on every side. Here and there a few fragments of marble, and broken pillars, are all that meet his eye, as he approaches to the gates of the modern fortress.

The circumference of the ancient Syracuse, has been estimated at upwards of twenty miles. I was, indeed, told, that the walls may yet be distinctly traced. A most ingenious contrivance in the ancient fortifications, apparently for the purpose of making sorties, has lately been discovered. It consists of a subterranean passage, for a considerable way beyond the walls, where it formed several branches, each opening at a port of the same dimensions as the entrance to the principal communication. By this contrivance, the garrison could send, suddenly, forth, a greater body of troops than is practicable by any plan in the modern system of fortification; while the danger of surprise was prevented, by the opening within the city being not wider than one of the sally ports.

The theatre and amphitheatre, having been excavated in the rock on which the city was built, are still tolerably entire. The latter is small, and, being of posterior construction to the former, may be regarded as a proof of the declining state of the city, at the time it was formed, which is said to have been in the reign of Nero. The theatre must have been a vast work: it contained benches for upwards of twenty thousand spectators. It seems almost impossible to conceive, in what manner the actors could make themselves heard throughout so great a concave. Hollow passages between every four or five benches, are supposed to have been made for the purpose

of conducting the sound from the stage; places are also shewn, where reverberators were, according to this hypothesis, fixed, in order to throw out the sounds to the audience. That is to say, that the text of the performance was heard, like the talk of the invisible girls: a supposition very like nonsense. Some of the learned have fancied, that the actors performed only the pantomime of the drama, and that there was a person behind the scenes, who roared out the dialogue. This, however, I do not believe, more especially since I have seen the theatres of Syracuse and Toarmini. In the latter, on each side of the stage, there is a place where, it is said, a pulpit stood, which, I imagine, must have been for the readers: a contrivance more probable than the supposition of a person behind the scenes. If the man concealed could have been heard, the actors themselves might just as well have made use of their own voices. I have somewhere seen it suggested, that the Greek tragedies were, probably, recited with music, like the modern Italian operas; and I feel rather inclined to assent to this notion.

The Ear of Dionysius, as it is called, is, of all the remains of Syracuse, the most famous; but, it appears, that he had two ears, both of which are still in existence: which of the two to choose as the right one, I confess myself unable to determine. One of them is still tolerably perfect, and is marvellously like an ass's; the other has suffered, as all tyrants' ears should suffer, a degree of culprit deficiency. They are both excavations in the two principal Latomies.

A Latomy is just a stone quarry. The bottom of one of the largest is now converted into a beautiful sequestered garden. Huge fragments, from the precipice, overhang the pathways like the segments

of broken arches, and the olive trees are seen starting out of the rocks, where there is not a particle of soil. This recluse paradise belongs to a Capuchin convent, the chief of which, a sensible well-bred man, conducted me through it. In turning a corner, I observed a monumental inscription; and, on approaching, was surprised to find it in the English language. It mentioned, that the body of an American midshipman was deposited in the rock behind. He had been killed in a duel, and the monks, in charity, had permitted him to be buried there. In the other great latomy there is a picturesque cavern, occupied by twine-spinners, and a small manufactory of nitre.

Among other curiosities, a street of tombs is shewn. In this street is the sepulchre of Archimedes; but all the marks by which Cicero discovered it are obliterated, and it is not now known. In passing from this place to the catacombs, the entrance to which is about half a mile distant, we happened to cross the excavated aqueduct which antiently supplied the city with water. It is chiefly remarkable, on account of containing two canals, one over the other. It is supposed that this was a secret contrivance in case of siege, that if the enemy stopped up one, the other, being concealed, might still furnish a sufficient supply of water. In a neighbouring field, I saw a number of broken marbles lying, near which, not long before, a statue of Venus was discovered, of very admirable workmanship. It wants, however, the head and right arm. It is the property of the king, otherwise it would have been bought by some of the English travellers. It was standing, when I saw it, in the house of a private gentleman, covered with an old green silk petticoat, ex-

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posed to the ribaldry and carelessness of the servants. I should not be surprized to hear of its having been thrown down and broken.

The catacombs may be described as a subterranean city—the city of the dead. They are of great extent, and branch out into unnumbered streets and labyrinths. The tombs appeared to be tenantless;—even the dead of Syracuse are gone. It is wonderful, considering the strong belief of great treasures being deposited in the catacombs, that no one has yet undertaken to examine them thoroughly. Without much labour, the apertures in the roof, by which the light and air were formerly admitted, might be opened, and the passages seem to be all sufficiently clear.

The Marmio, a principal harbour of Syracuse, is a natural bason, about six miles in circumference, and bordered with the luxuriant landscape of Hybla. It has, more than once, during the present war, received the British fleet; but, when I was there, it contained only one ship, and two or three boats;—to such a desolate condition has this once busy port been reduced!

Syracuse is a place from which an enemy ought to meet with a formidable resistance. It is one of the very strongest fortresses in the kingdom. The garrison was a British regiment, consisting of about six hundred men. In the town there were upwards of twelve hundred ecclesiastics; therefore it was necessary to have a garrison of foreigners.

I ought to mention, that, although the person who acts as Cicerone in Syracuse wears an order of knighthood, he was very thankful for a recompence of three dollars. Is it possible that rank

or nobility can be respectable in this form? In Catania, the master of the inn requested me to give him something in charity for a nobleman, who was chiefly dependent on his family, and a small stipend of about six-pence a day from the Bishop.

Many of the Sicilians consider themselves indebted to Mr. Leckie for the agricultural projects that he has set afoot in the neighbourhood of Syracuse. At the same time, few of them have attempted to imitate his example; but, continuing insensible to the value of experimental alterations, which, in such a country as theirs, are useful merely by breaking in upon old inoperose habits, they appear to have felt the tacit reproach of his activity, and seem invidiously disposed to ridicule the improvement which he endeavoured to introduce among his labourers. It is certainly to be lamented, that the usefulness of his example was so soon frustrated by the decisive character of his politics. The king, it is said, had, at one time, a high personal esteem for Mr. Leckie. As far, perhaps, as individual, independent of official weight, prevailed, there has not yet been any Englishman in Sicily who might have contributed so much as he to extend our national influence in that way which is most efficient; namely, by the good manifestly resulting from commercial undertakings. Those who charge this gentleman with ingratitude to the court, should remember, that public benefits are the only legitimate returns for the favours of kings.

SUBSTITUTE FOR GUNPOWDER.

The festivals in honour of the saints, are, like other occasions for demonstrating loyalty and attachment, celebrated with loud ex-

plosions of gunpowder. In the town of Noto, a substitute for this effect has been contrived, which does great honour to the ingenuity of the inhabitants, and is so very cheap, that it ought to be recommended to our fleets and armies. Not that it would answer military purposes; but for all the festal noises of gunpowder it would do perfectly well. It consists of persons, in pairs, clapping thin planks together in such a way as to produce, at each stroke, a smart resounding culverin-like smack!

CAPE PASSERO.

Having completed the inquiries which induced me to make the tour of Sicily, I hired a boat at Syracuse in order to proceed to Malta. The distance is above a hundred miles. The winter being far advanced, the voyage was entitled to the epithet of an enterprize. We sailed on the fourteenth of December; the wind came against us before we reached Cape Passero, and obliged us to put into the shore, where we lay seven days, in a most uncomfortable state.

The country near Cape Passero is rocky and uncultivated, producing chiefly the palmeta, a wild plant, the root of which is dug up by the peasants, and used by them, occasionally, for food. In the early part of summer, great quantities of tunny are caught off the Cape, and cured in public warehouses, built on purpose to promote the fishing. The tunny is much larger than any fish which we make use of. When fresh, it resembles salmon in flavour; salted, it tastes exceedingly rich; and would, probably, not be unpalatable to the English, were it more neatly prepared. It is the chief festival food

of the lower order of the Sicilians, who seldom obtain any butcher's meat. They allege, that it is salutary to dropsical constitutions.

During the time that we were compelled to wait for the wind, I made several excursions to the villages in the neighbourhood, and was a good deal amused by the peculiarities of the peasants. In a house, where I one day happened to apply for some refreshment, two old women were baking. They had the licence for supplying the village with bread. Bake-houses in Sicily are licensed like ale-houses among us, and the women were too much engaged to attend to my wants.

In the same cottage was a shop, kept by the very prototype of Mrs. Maclarty, of Glenburnie. Only, unlike the Scotch wife, she wore gold ear-rings, as large as a watch chain. She was very busy, measuring wine from one cask into another. A girl coming in for a pennyworth of oil, the signora shook the wine from her fingers, took down the oil flask, filled the girl's phial, put the pence into an old handless jug, wiped her fingers on her petticoat, and resumed the mensuration of the wine. I sat down, and gave a deep sigh.

After cogitating about ten minutes, on what it was possible to get, which the signora might not touch, an unfortunate hen came pecking in at the door. I immediately thought of eggs, and inquired of my landlady if she could get me any. Making the affirmative sign in reply, for the Sicilians never answer verbally, if a sign will serve, she went to the door, and gave a shrill unintelligible scream. A long-bearded slovenly peasant, with one hand in his waistcoat pocket, and the other holding a tobacco-pipe to his mouth, made

his appearance. He was her husband. She gave him a few coppers from the handless jug: he slowly withdrew, and she resumed her occupation. In a short time, he returned with two eggs, which the signora put into an earthen vessel, and placed it on the fire. Looking round, she observed a piece of straw rope lying on the floor, and, taking it up, after tugging at it a little, stuffed it under the pot, and blew with her mouth till a flame appeared. She then poked a few small sticks into the fire, and returned to her labours. All this was done without one word passing her lips. The husband now began to address me, and the purport of his discourse was, to ask if I should not like to have a fowl dressed. In an unguarded moment I assented; and the hen, that was pecking on the floor, was immediately put to death. He picked off the feathers out of doors, and, while I was eating the eggs, which were now ready, I heard him exclaim, "Che bella, che bella!" in the very tone and language of a Cicerone, directing the attention of a traveller to the beauties of a painting, or a statue; and he immediately came in, shewing, first to me, and then to his wife, the fatness of the hen's "postique parts."

EDUCATION OF THE PEASANTRY.

The church monopolizes the education of the peasantry, and, in some respects, follows the particular policy of the Jesuits, in selecting for priests, those pupils who appear to be possessed of superior endowments. I happened, one day, to observe a country boy, of about eight years old, with an ecclesiastical cravat about his neck. I inquired if he was destined for the church, and received for answer, that it was not yet known; but when he was grown up, if he shewed

that he had capacity, probably he would be made a priest. The boy appeared to be uncommonly shrewd, and I did not wonder that he had attracted the notice of the clergy.

A STATE PRISON.

While we lay at Cape Passero, I went to an island which lies at a short distance from the shore, and on which there is a small castle, used as a state prison, and as a place of confinement for felons who have been condemned to perpetual imprisonment. The castle is a large square tower, on which ten or twelve pieces of cannon are mounted. The entrance is only capable of admitting one person at a time. On entering, I was almost intimidated by the scowling unshaven visages which met me; till, advancing a little further, I discovered a woman spinning with a distaff. On inquiring for the keeper, she shewed me into a clean apartment, and, presently, a very pretty young lady came from an inner room, and told me, in Italian, that her father would be with me presently. In a moment after, another appeared, who, I found, was her elder sister. They were dressed with dark brown calico, trimmed and ornamented with green ribbands, in a stile indicating gentility, and something like fashion. Before I had time to express my surprise, at meeting with two ladies in a place so distant from all society, the captain made his appearance. I told him the simple fact of my detention, and want of amusement, and he immediately took me into an inner chamber. It seemed to be their principal room. In a little grated window, two flower pots were placed, and the other parts were neatly arranged. But the surprise of this unexpected scene, was very soon changed to a far

other feeling than that of pleasure. On the bed lay the mother, apparently dying; and, beside her, a little boy who had taken refuge behind her at my approach. She had been ill above a month; and her family had no hope of her recovery. On my taking leave, the captain requested me to give him a little rum from my stores; and the soldier, whom he sent to bring it, informed me, that this unfortunate family were Neapolitans, and had only been in the castle three months. The lady, he said, was a delicate woman, and their disconsolate situation, with the sharpness of the air, had brought on her disease. The captain was the governor.

PUNISHMENTS.

Crimes, which in other countries are punished with death, are commonly, in Sicily, followed only by imprisonment. Owing to this peculiarity in the distribution of justice, the British are apt to speak of the laws as more laxly administered, than, perhaps, the fact would justify. At least I felt myself, as it were, rebuked, by an observation of one of the judges, with whom I happened to converse on this subject. "We do not punish," said he; "we only make examples." He informed me, that the number of convicts throughout the island, in the year 1809, amounted to about four hundred persons, who cost the state, on an average, three dollars a head per month; and it was supposed, that their labour more than repaid the value of this expence. The torture, for extorting confession, if not abolished by law, is certainly not used in Sicily. It is true, that, both in Messina and Syracuse, there have been instances of suspected traitors

having been cruelly treated; but not by the order of any tribunal. The Inquisition does not exist in Sicily.

It is, perhaps, the case, that many members of the Sicilian tribunals of justice, are so far disciples of Beccaria, as to be governed in their awards by his principle of making example the end of punishment; but the code of Sicily does not authorize such procedure. Judges are not philosophers. It is their duty only to administer the law according to its words. If they find it imperfect for its purposes, they should point out the defects to the legislature; but, of their own accord, to modify its provisions, is to undermine the very props of social security, and to destroy the utility of public law. The steady administration of bad laws, is better than the irregular use of the wisest.

HISTORY.

A regular narrative of the History of Sicily, written in a liberal and comprehensive stile, is a desideratum in the literature of Europe. The unstable possession which the sovereigns, from the earliest times, appear to have held of the throne, has, undoubtedly, been the cause of the slight attachment to the dynasties of their monarchs, which has marked the conduct of the Sicilians in all ages.

The state of the island, before the foundation of Syracuse by the Heraclidæ, is as obscure as that of Britain before the invasion of Julius Cæsar: and we are informed only, that, for some time after, Sicily was chiefly occupied by colonies from Greece and Africa, and governed by provincial kings. When Xerxes invaded

Europe, Gelon, of Syracuse, was solicited by the Greeks to assist them; but his attention was drawn to the defence of his own state, against the Carthaginians, who, at that time, had settlements in the island, and were in alliance with the Persian Monarch. Soon after the death of Gelon, the Syracusans banished his family, and established a popular government. In this revolution, the character of the age is clearly evident. A republican spirit had manifested itself both in Italy and Greece; and, about thirty years before, democratic governments had been formed in Rome and Athens.

In the course of two hundred and sixty years, from the expulsion of royalty from Syracuse, a numerous and various succession of petty tyrants acquired and lost the regal authority; and the whole island was subdued to the dominion of Rome. Unlike the other Roman provinces, Sicily was allowed to retain her ancient laws and customs; and, in the local privileges of several cities, an antiquary may yet trace remains of the different little states into which the country was anciently divided.

In A. D. 475 the Vandals had conquered Sicily, and they resigned it to Odoacer, who, at that time, had made himself master of the western empire.

In 550 it was taken by Totila the Goth; but, next year, it was surrendered to the emperor of Constantinople, and remained a dependency of the empire till 857, when it was attacked, and finally subdued, by the Saracens.

In 1040 the Greeks and Normans recovered it to Christendom, and Roger established himself on the throne. It remained but a short time undisturbed in his legitimate line; for, when William II.

died, in 1190, the crown was usurped by Tancred. Constantia, the paternal sister of William, being married to the emperor Henry VI. the imperial power enabled her to regain the kingdom to her family, and her son, the emperor Frederick II. was established king. Thus Sicily passed into the house of Suabia.

Conradine, the grandson of Frederick, being left a minor, Manfred, the bastard brother of Frederick, availing himself of the minority, obtained possession of the throne. Pope Innocent IV. who was hostile to the pretensions and ambition of the Suabian family, with the common arrogance of the Popes, assigned the sovereignty to Edmund, the second son of Henry III. of England. But the English monarch, soon discovering that this honour only served to drain him of money, ordered it to be resigned. Charles, Count d'Anjou, being subsequently induced by Pope Urban IV. to accept the same pretended rights to the crown, defeated and killed Manfred the Usurper. Conradine, with the Duke of Austria, then came to assert his rights; but Charles vanquished them also, and cut off their heads. The crown, nevertheless, did not long remain in this dynasty. For Peter III. of Arragon, the son-in-law of Manfred, was induced to undertake the conquest of the island, which he effected by the result of the famous Sicilian vespers.

Peter, by his will, bequeathed Sicily to his second son James, who resigned the crown to Charles, the son of him from whom his father had taken the island. A party of the Sicilians, attached to the house of Arragon, set up Frederick, the brother of James, in opposition to this Charles. After a bloody civil war, peace was concluded, by separating Sicily from Naples, and giving the latter to

Charles. The separation, however, did not continue long; for, at the death of Charles, in 1309, the crowns were again united. In the course of the same century, the Arragon line was broken by the crimes and indiscretions of Joanna, the Mary Stewart of Sicily; who, in 1382, was executed by her cousin Charles Durazzo. In the fifteenth, the right to the throne was contested by the French, and gave rise to those famous Italian wars, of which Guicciardini has written the history. At the beginning of the sixteenth century, Lewis XII. of France, was compelled to resign all pretensions to the Neapolitan dominions; and, from that time, Sicily remained a dependency of the Spanish monarchy, till it was taken by Prince Eugene in 1707. By the peace of Rastadt it was ceded to the emperor. In 1734, the Spaniards recovered it; and the eldest son of their king was placed on the throne. When he succeeded to the crown of Spain, his brother, the reigning sovereign, became king of Naples and Sicily: in his time, the island has been made, once more, a kingdom independent of Naples: and the aspect of the times seems to portend new changes.

THE CONSTITUTION.

The political constitution of Sicily, like all others on which feudal institutions have been engrafted, is partly monarchical, partly ecclesiastical, partly aristocratical, and partly burgheral. I use the latter term as descriptive of that species of representation by which the corporations of towns are allowed to send members to the Legislature: for there is not a town in the island which possesses an open elective charter. Sicily, indeed, to compare small things with

great, resembles an empire, consisting of different provinces, each with peculiar laws and customs. The statutes, enacted by the states of the kingdom, may be sufficiently comprehensive, in terms; but they are never universal, in effect, owing to certain very ancient independent privileges which different cities enjoy, and which the supreme legislature of the kingdom has never attempted to abrogate. The toleration of these localities, in the execution of the laws, is one of the great sources of the grievances of the people. Nor is it easy to conceive in what manner they can be removed, while the members of the parliament are personally interested in preserving them. The crown has not enough of lawful power; the nobility and clergy are destructively numerous; and the people, by the constitutions of the ancient cities, are prevented from influencing the proceedings of the legislature and executive.

THE SICILIAN CHARACTER.

Our knowledge of the characters of nations is derived from History; but there are moral features among every people which History never describes. In estimating the character of the Sicilians, this consideration ought to be particularly borne in mind. The island has been so long connected with Naples, that the two countries, in opinion, have become almost inseparably blended; and much of that bloody colouring, which darkens the complexion of their general national character, may, properly, belong only to the Neapolitan. Still, however, the circumstances of the Sicilian government, from an early æra, serve to shew, that the political attachments of the people have never been lasting; nor have they,

in any epoch of their story, evinced that they possessed that resolute courage which has, often, enabled small communities to acquire immortal renown, in their opposition to superior powers.

The Sicilians are rather a sly than a cunning race; perhaps no nation in Europe possesses so much naiveté. Loquacious and ingenious, they make more use of persuasion in their dealings than any other people. It is not enough that a Sicilian objects the high price of what he desires to purchase; he expatiates on the inferiority of the quality; recalls to recollection how long he has been a customer; enumerates, one by one, counting them on his fingers, the circumstances of unlucky bargains that he has had; flatteringly contrasts the opulence of the English with the poverty of the Sicilians; animadverts on the politics of the Government; magnifies the value of his ready-money; insinuates that he may change his merchant; and often retires, and returns several times, before he offers his ultimatum. Nor in selling does he practise less address. There is not a single point of his wares that does not possess something extraordinary, or beautiful: no other shop in the town has any thing like them; so cheap, or so excellent... If the price be high, What will you give? and it is seldom that a Sicilian refuses the offer of an Englishman.

The inhabitants of this island are, in the proper sense of the term, highly superstitious; but the dicta of ignorance are so interwoven with the creeds of popery, that many notions of vulgar superstition are regarded as essentials of religion. The only exception is a belief in the effects of the influence of evil eyes; and even over this, the priesthood have acquired jurisdiction. For they persuade the people

to buy bits of blessed rags and paper, which, when worn suspended round the neck, have the effect, as they pretend, of neutralizing the malignancy. The influence of an evil look is instantaneous; and the person who happens to glance it, may be unconscious of what he does: it smites the subject with sudden malady, or impresses his mind with lugubrious images, and unfits him for the prosecution of premeditated intentions. It is useless to speculate on the fantasies of the human mind; but, in this case, the constant flickering of electricity in this climate, and the occasional breathing of pestiferous exhalations, from the vegetable corruption in the bottoms of the valleys, afford a plausible reason for the sudden distempers and dejections which are ascribed to the aspect of ungracious eyes. The same superstition is well known in Scotland; but it is more generally prevalent among the Sicilians than the Scotch. Whether it is, among us, an imported or indigenous belief, cannot now be ascertained. Over all the ancient extent of the papal empire, there is a great similarity in the topics of vulgar credulity.

The Sicilians have, certainly, a very keen relish of humour; and, now and then, one may perceive, in them, a strong trait of peculiarity, not individual but national, which, notwithstanding their ancient proficiency, is an assurance to think that they may yet attain some literary superiority which shall be regarded as original. A description of manners and customs, by a genuine Sicilian, otherwise properly qualified, would equally surprize and delight.

MALTA.

THE entrance to the harbour of Valetta is truly grand. On each side, and in front, the fortifications rise in stupendous masses, with a watch-tower perched here and there on the corners. The buildings and domes above them have also a very noble appearance. Not a particle of smoke sullies the atmosphere; and every edifice looks as if it were only just finished. The internal appearance of the city corresponds to the magnificence of its exterior. The landing-place is an extensive crescent; from which a gentle ascent, partly excavated in the rock, leads towards a gate. The one side of this way is occupied with the stalls of dealers in fish, fruits, and other necessaries. Immediately in front of the drawbridge is a handsome fountain, ornamented with a bronze statue of Neptune; and, on entering the gateway, the stairs, which conduct to the upper part of the town, immediately commence, making the entrance, in some respects, more like the vestibule of a great mansion, than the portal of a city. Nothing can be more striking than the streets which are first ascended after passing this gateway. They are, in fact, so many vast staircases; and the buildings that rise prospectively in the ascent, are ornamented with cornices and projections, so huge, that the architecture seems to have been designed to correspond in strength and durability with the fortifications.

The domestic architecture of the Maltese cannot be considered as regulated by the established rules of good taste; nevertheless, the picturesque effect is grand; and one meets, occasionally, with vistas

that seem more like the conceptions of a painter than the limited realities of an inhabited town.

INN.

There was no tolerable hotel in Malta while I happened to be there; but one, sufficiently spacious, was preparing, and has since, I understand, been opened. The house, in which I obtained lodgings, had formerly been a tavern; but the owner was induced to give it up for a singular reason. "When it was an inn," said the waiter, a Sicilian, who spoke English, "it was so full of noises, that there was no living in it. The officers of the men of war came making noises. They went to the play, and came back making noises. Then there were the stranger gentlemen, all English, making noises—sitting up in the night, singing, roaring, jumping on the tables, breaking glasses. O, my God! what terrible noises! So we put down the sign from the wall; and, if there be less money now, we have no noises."

MONOPOLY OF GRAIN.

The bread in Malta is the worst I ever tasted; and I was not a little surprized, when I learnt the reason. The government, as in the time of the knights, still monopolizes the sale of corn; and the profit derived from the trade is one of the principal sources of the revenue appropriated to defray the expence of the civil establishment. The simple statement of this fact, is, certainly, not calculated to convey a very favourable impression of the wisdom of the government. But there are peculiarities in the condition of Malta, which,

perhaps, justify the monopoly, and render it necessary that the public sustenance should not, as in other countries, depend on the ordinary motives of private interest. In an island, the produce of which is inadequate to support its population above a few months, though the land is cultivated to the utmost, and where the foreign supplies are liable to be intercepted, it might be hazardous to trust to mercantile speculation only. The government, therefore, considers it prudent to have always a large quantity of wheat in store, and the oldest is regularly the first sold to the bakers. The granaries are not the least curiosities of the island. They are excavations in the rock, and are formed along the ramparts, and, in some places under the streets. At the mouth, they are not more than three or four feet in diameter, widening, however, to the extent of twenty and upwards, at the bottom, each capable of containing four hundred to above a thousand quarters.

CHARACTERISTICS.

The Maltese, in their figure, are rather sinewy than muscular. They are, uniformly, more slenderly made than the English, and have a certain columnar appearance in the body, which I have never observed in any other people. Their national features are rather regular than pleasant, and their complexion is much darker than that of the Sicilians. In their habits, they are singularly frugal: a little garlick, or fruit, with a small piece of bread, is their common repast. Butcher-meat is a luxury of which they seldom partake. Their language is a dialect of the Arabic; but many speak Italian, and French. In Valetta, the young men, generally, understand English,

of which the sounds accord, in some degree, with those of their native language.

The great amusement of the Maltese is the enjoyment of conversation, sitting, in family parties, at their doors, after sunset. In speaking of national peculiarities, my observations chiefly refer to the practices and customs of the common people. There is but little difference between the genteel manners of one Christian nation and those of another; all well-educated Europeans having now a great similarity in their domestic habits.

When the magnitude of the Maltese public works, and the general character of the people, are considered, it is impossible not to draw a conclusion favourable to the government of the Knights; who, whatever may have been the extent of their alleged licentiousness as individuals, must have ruled with wisdom, to form a people so comfortable and orderly, and, with their comparatively limited means, to construct works which rival the greatest monuments of the Roman empire. The population of the island, when the Knights arrived, was reckoned only at twelve thousand; when it fell into the hands of the French, it exceeded a hundred thousand. I have been told, that the Maltese speak with regret of the reign of the Knights, or, as they call it, of the time of the Religion. This I was sorry to hear. The British have much difficulty in familiarizing themselves to foreigners. The contempt with which we are accustomed to regard every other nation, enables the French, by the practice of their habitual politeness, often to acquire a superior influence, even in those countries which are the pensioners of Great Britain. There is no doubt that the French are, individually, a more accommodating

and agreeable people than the British, who, instead of condescending to imitate their rivals in those little arts of address that win the affections, only the more vehemently despise such arts, for the sake of those by whom they are practised. The common consent with which the British undervalue the character and institutions of other nations, is strikingly exemplified in their mode of speaking of the Maltese; and a considerable degree of jealousy seems to be entertained, because the government endeavours to conciliate the native inhabitants. Men who spend much of their life abroad, especially such as are naturally of reserved dispositions, like the generality of our countrymen, acquire somewhat the character of recluse students. They attain a more comprehensive way of thinking, than those who take a part in the warfare of opinions; but they are apt to mistake logic for reason, leaving out, in their syllogisms, the most important of all considerations — peculiarities of habit and of feeling. Prejudices are the inductions of the heart; and the head is seldom able to form its estimates without being influenced by them. Whatever may be the prejudices of the Maltese, we can have no right to bend them in conformity to ours. We may endeavour, by the fairness, justice, and temperance of our conduct, to awaken their respect, and to excite them to imitation; but I know not what tyranny can be, if it do not consist in compelling men to act against the convictions of their understanding.

PUBLICATIONS.

In the year 1809, I met with a singular literary curiosity in Malta. It was a narrative of the exploits of the Emperor Napoleon,

printed at Paris, in Arabic characters, for the purpose of shewing, that he is a man sent by heaven to alter the condition of the world. It was ordered, by the French government, to be distributed wherever the language in which it is written is supposed to be understood. If any proof were wanting, to shew how thoroughly and entirely the ruler of France understands all the various means of accomplishing his ends, this might be adduced as one. It is impossible not to regret the supine indifference with which our government affects to contemn such artifices. In Malta, where thousands of Greeks and Turks are in the practice of constantly trading, we may be said to possess a fulcrum, on which we might construct engines sufficient to move the whole Mahomedan world; yet, so regardless are we of this advantage, that the press of Malta is of no public utility. The French publish a Greek and Italian newspaper at Corfu; but neither in Zante nor in Malta, is there a periodical publication of any description whatever.

ASPECT OF THE COUNTRY.

The aspect of the country of Malta is, perhaps, more wonderful to a stranger, particularly to one who has come from a land of verdant fields, groves, and hedge-rows, than the fortifications of Valetta, amazing as these are. The whole island appears to be subdivided, by walls, into innumerable little properties, of not more than an acre or two in extent. Nothing that approximates to the definition of a tree is to be descried within the whole range of view, from the highest watch-tower on the battlements of the city. The appearance of the landscape, so destitute of refreshing green, so intersected with stone walls, every where studded with churches crowned with domes,

and, with the flat-roofed and windowless cottages of the peasants, is not to be previously conceived. To me, it constantly suggested the idea of a great cemetery, subdivided into family portions, and crowded with tombs and mausoleums. Malta has, in fact, reached that point of cultivation and population, which a wrong-headed disciple of Malthus would be apt to consider as affording the most melancholy subject of reflection. Every inch is tilled, and yet the produce has long been inadequate to the maintenance of the inhabitants; notwithstanding which, the very labouring class of the people are still so inconsiderate as to marry and beget children, as merrily as if they had all sinecures. Cows were long ago expelled; and the frugal-feeding goat supplied a competency of milk till the English came; but these epicures had again recalled those huge vegetable-devouring creatures; and, in the year 1809, I was told, that there were no fewer than three milch cows in the island of Malta! As a compensation, however, for the provender of the cows, our countrymen have introduced the cultivation of potatoes.

MODE OF TRAVELLING.

The common mode of travelling in Malta, is in single-horse close carriages, which hold two persons. They are called calishes, and are a very tolerable sort of vehicles. The driver never rides, but runs, all day, by the side of the horse or mule; and the fatigue which he will sustain, even under the influence of the scirocco, is almost incredible. Nor is he extravagant in his charges: for a dollar, a calish may be hired all the afternoon and evening. This carriage is the only thing in the shape of a machine, that has struck me

as peculiar to the Maltese. They are not, I suspect, a people remarkable for inventions; on the contrary, they seem to have reached a Chinese state of self-sufficient perfection, and are satisfied with their attainments. They have the most beautiful breed of asses in the world, and they keep them in a handsome sleeked condition.

KITCHENS.

For some time after my arrival, I was a good deal at a loss to account for the manner in which dinners were prepared, and kept hot for large parties. I saw no smoke from the chimnies, no fires; nor fuel, in any place, sufficient for the supply even of a very frugal kitchen. Reflecting, also, on the excessive heat of the climate, I thought it impossible for the salamandrian constitution of the most veteran cook, to endure the additional fury of large kitchen fires, after our wasteful manner. I was informed, however, that the cooks made no complaints; and that the stoves were so arranged, as to occasion no inconvenient heat, and to require very little fuel. I was, in consequence, induced to examine a kitchen, which I found constructed according to what are called the Rumford principles; and I was told, that all the kitchens in the city were similar. The cooking apparatus of the Sicilians and Italians, is, I understand, much like that of the Maltese.

WATER.

Although the island is but one great rock, thinly covered with soil, the inhabitants are well supplied with water. A small stream, which rises in the interior, is brought to Valetta, by an aqueduct, and

distributed by public fountains. Every house in the city, as well as in the country, has also a cistern, capable of containing a quantity of water sufficient to serve the family six months. These cisterns are filled by the rain from the roofs of the houses.

ENTERTAINMENTS.

Of the diversions of the Maltese, I observed none that I thought could be considered as national, except a simple game, which differs very little, in principle, from quoits. The players are each provided with a stone, of the size and shape of a four-pound cannon ball, which they throw towards a mark. The theatre is very neat. Like almost every other thing in the country, that is not actually alive, it is entirely composed of stone; even the partitions of the boxes are of that material. I was first made sensible, in this house, that the Italian comic opera is not an absurdity.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND INSTITUTIONS.

The cathedral of St. John is celebrated for the beauty of its pavement, which consists of the monuments of the Knights, executed in mosaic, each of which appears like one large plate of enamel painting. Several of the altar-pieces are valuable; but the riches of this church were sadly reduced by the French. When Buonaparté came to inspect it, for the pious purpose of reforming the luxuries of its service, it was observed, that he kept his hat on, to the great scandal of the priests. The portrait of the grand master, Pinto, in mosaic, is a great curiosity. It is not, at first sight, distinguishable from painting. The menial who attended me through the cathedral,

pointed out, on one of the altars, a picture of the Virgin, whom he immediately seemed to address with many interjections of devout admiration; but, observing on her cheek the residue of the dinner of a sacrilegious fly, he suddenly expectorated in her face, in order to rub it the more easily clean.

The palace of the grand master, in which the governor now resides, is a large plain building, equal to any of the royal monasteries of England. The corridors and state apartments, are superior to those of St. James's, which, among other foolish flatteries, we are often told, at home, are equal to any in Europe. Contiguous to the palace, is the public library, the finest piece of architecture in the town. It was undergoing some repairs, preparatory to receiving the books of the Maltese library; a collection of nearly thirty thousand volumes, consisting of books which the members of the order had from time to time bequeathed. This institution had, formerly, a right to a copy of every book printed at the royal stampery of Paris, and possesses, in consequence, the best specimens of French typography and literature.

The governor has a country-house near the village of St. Antonio. Like the palace, it contains a number of portraits, and a few respectable pictures; but it is celebrated chiefly for the gardens, which are laid out in the Italian stile. They are of no great extent; yet, with all due deference to the manes of Kent and Brown, I find myself, in honesty, compelled to say, that, notwithstanding their trimness, fountains, and colonnades, I thought them both beautiful and appropriate. Where an extensive domain will admit, the imitation of rocks, woods, and lakes, may be introduced with

propriety; but, in so small a spot as the gardens of St. Antonio, it would only be ridiculous. Besides, a flower-garden is a place dedicated to festivity; and the mind is insensibly disposed to gaiety, by the sight of objects, evidently formed only for ornament. During the time of Sir Alexander Ball, his lady held, weekly, a very stately and ceremonious public tea-drinking in these gardens.

Sir Alexander Ball assigned to the merchants, the quadrangle of the building which was, formerly, the college of the Jesuits; and it has been fitted up as an exchange. It also contains apartments for a bank, and an insurance company, which were established by subscription in 1809. There is a great disposition, in Malta, to imitate the commercial institutions of London, and to place business on as regular a footing, as the difference of circumstances will admit; but the want of a legislature is a great drawback on this laudable public spirit. The tribunals of the country may, in courtesy, recognize the institutions of the merchants; but the want of legality, cannot but greatly operate to their disadvantage. The claims of the bank, as a company, may be resisted in the courts of the United Kingdom, where, also, the subscribers may be, individually, prosecuted for the debts of the company.

FARMING.

In this island, the farmer begins to turn up the soil in September, and continues his labour for the different crops that he intends to raise, till the end of April; at which time, all the seeds are in the ground. He is obliged to chip the rock under the soil every six or

seven years, in order to recruit the fertility of the earth. The vegetables of Malta are excellent. The cotton, however, is inferior, and only fit for making sail-cloth and coarse checks, into which it is manufactured in the island. Were the absurd restrictions on the trade between this central station, for selling colonial produce, and the West Indies, removed, the Maltese cotton sail-cloth might become an article of return to the latter. All the small vessels in the Mediterranean make use of cotton sail-cloth.

THE PRIVILEGE OF SANCTUARY.

We have had possession of Malta upwards of ten years; and yet the public do not know whether it is to remain permanently ours, or to be resigned again, nominally to the knights, but virtually to the French. This uncertainty, and that defect of our foreign policy, in not having any definite plan for embracing into our empire such acquisitions as the events of war enable us to make, operate greatly to the disadvantage of this invaluable possession. An apprehension is felt, both by the natives and the British, that our statesmen will surrender Malta — one of the most important commercial and military stations that we ever obtained. The administration of justice is affected by this uncertainty and apprehension; and the greatest abuses are tolerated, merely because the existing government is only regarded as provisional during the war. It is still doubtful whether a British subject, in this part of the British dominions, may claim his birth-right—a trial by jury. It is indisputable, as far as precedent goes, that neither his person, nor his property, enjoy, here, that natural protection which it is the duty of all governments to afford,

and which, elsewhere, the British subject has a right to demand; and, if refused, may prosecute the magistrate for the consequences of the refusal.

Some time before my arrival at Malta, in 1809, as an English soldier happened to be walking along the street, a pig, belonging to a Maltese butcher, ran against him. The lad, irritated by having his uniform soiled, gave the animal a kick. Almost instantly the owner mortally stabbed him with a knife, and fled to the cathedral. Owing to some diffidence in the governor, out of respect to the popular prejudices, if such gentle terms can be applied to the transaction, the murderer was allowed to remain in the sanctuary; and the bishop was only solicited to deliver him up to justice. This injudicious mildness was equivocally answered. The governor grew more firm, and demanded the culprit. The clergy perceived that the sanctuary might, in the end, be forced; and they facilitated the escape of the murderer.

It will not be surprizing, if, out of this felonious affair, circumstances arise to exalt the horns of the priesthood. Inferior delinquents may take sanctuary with impunity; and, should it become necessary to violate the privilege of sanctuary, the disregard of ancient law and precedent may be plausibly complained of. In a case of such atrocious murder, as that which I have related, the governor would have been supported by the sympathy of the people; and, before the priests could have been able to poison their feelings, he might have dragged the butcher even from the very arms of the bishop. One act of well-timed decision is worth a million of expedients. Such procedure, as the governor ought to have adopted,

would have abrogated in Malta the ecclesiastical power of harbouring criminals.

It has been urged, in excuse for the indecision of the general, that the privilege of sanctuary formed a part of those ancient legal customs which we had engaged to respect. But an engagement to connive at the protection and escape of delinquents could never be obligatory, because it is contrary to the law of nature and nations. The man who subscribes to such a principle, becomes himself a criminal. There is, however, a better reason for the abolition of sanctuary in Malta than reason itself. I mean to the priests. Henry VII. of England procured a bull from Rome to put an end to it in his dominions. Although his successors have renounced the supremacy of the Pope, the Papists must admit that the kings of England have inherited all the uncancelled privileges enjoyed by their ancestors; and therefore, as the successors of Henry, they have a regular ecclesiastical right to abolish the privilege of sanctuary, wherever their jurisdiction extends. From the moment that the island fell under the English crown, the priestly privilege of defrauding justice legally ceased to exist.

HISTORY.

Malta was first known to have been ruled by an African of the name of Battus, who was an enemy of queen Dido, and subdued by the Carthaginians. From them it fell into the hands of the Romans; and the Saracens severed it from their empire. Roger the Norman, king of Sicily, having, in his turn, expelled them, it remained attached to the Sicilian monarchy till the emperor

Charles V. gave it to the knights of St. John, after their expulsion from Rhodes. The French, under Buonaparté, surreptitiously obtained the possession, during the last war, but were, soon after, compelled to surrender it to the British.

TRADE.

The effects also of that ruinous infirmity in our foreign policy, which has, hitherto, led us to make conquests in war, for the express purpose of afterwards resigning them, is very visible in the state of the trade of this island. In the course of my voyages and travels, I found that all the countries to which the British have still access, were supplied with colonial produce by the Americans. With Sicily and Turkey the Americans were in the practice of holding direct intercourse, although neither the Sicilian nor Ottoman governments are on any terms of correspondence with that of the United States. I found, also, that the coffee and sugar, in the market of Malta, was brought there by Americans, direct from Cuba and St. Domingo. It seemed, that, without any diplomatic address, exerted in these parts, the citizens of the United States enjoyed, within the Mediterranean, as great privileges, and as ample protection, as the British, with all their fleets, armies, and plenipotentiaries.

In Sicily, notwithstanding the state of relation in which we stand with that kingdom, the Americans were just as much respected as we were. In Turkey they participated in all the privileges to which we could lay any claim; and, in Malta, our own island, they shared, to the utmost, every immunity which the British possessed. It will

be difficult to discover, either in the conduct of the United States towards us, or in that regard which we owe to our own interests, a satisfactory reason for permitting them to enjoy such advantages — advantages enjoyed at the expence of our West Indian planters and merchants.

Whenever the traders of any nation attain pre-eminency in a foreign market, it is either owing to some superiority of quality in their articles, or to a superiority of privilege, or to their ability in supplying the same kind of articles, at a cheaper rate than other merchants. It is to the latter of these causes, that the exclusive pre-eminence, which the Americans have attained in the Mediterranean, must be ascribed. They load sugars and coffee in Cuba and St. Domingo, and come directly into this sea. The expenses of the voyage are not greater than those on a voyage from the West Indies to the United Kingdom. If the invoice price of their cargoes be the same as the shipping value of our West Indian produce, they can afford to sell, in Malta, for example, at the same price that our planters can afford to sell in England. By our colonial system, we cannot carry colonial produce direct to Malta. It must be first brought to the United Kingdom, there landed, there warehoused, and there shipped again, for Malta; and the expence of the voyage from England to that island, independent of the landing, warehousing, and shipping charges, is as great as that of a voyage from Cuba, or St. Domingo, to Malta; namely, the ordinary voyage of the Americans with colonial produce. If this expense be twenty-five *per cent.* it is, therefore, clear, that our colonial system has the effect of giving twenty-five *per cent.* of advantage to the Americans over

our merchants, on all colonial produce that is sold in Malta. For the Americans, to reach the same destination, perform only one voyage, while we are, by law, obliged to perform two.

If it be convenient to the great political concerns of the empire, that the colonies of the enemy should be conquered; as our original plantations must suffer by the effects of this policy, it is but just that we should endeavour to lessen their sufferings. It may be expedient to reduce the foreign possessions of the enemy, in order to procure certain equivalents when we shall come to negociate for peace; but it is not judicious that we should entail, upon those possessions, which we do not mean to surrender, hardships that will, in the end, affect our own vital interests, more than the temporary injury which we inflict on the enemy. If it be intended to retain the new acquisitions to the utmost, and to regard them as integral parts of the empire, then the obligation of considering the state of the consumption of colonial produce, within the Mediterranean, in addition to the different other plans proposed for the relief of the planters, is indispensable. The enemy, aware of our belligerent colonial system, has, by most unprecedented regulations, which have proved lamentably successful, endeavoured to lessen the consumption of colonial produce on the continent. This has diminished the loss to him of the colonies which we have taken, and reduced the value of property to us, in those which we previously possessed. Were the actual condition of the colonies, collectively, the same as at the commencement of the war, such has been the diminution in the consumption of colonial produce on the continent, that the general value of plantation property is now materially impaired.

The population of Sicily is commonly reckoned at a million and a half. The quantity of sugar used in that island is, perhaps, equal to the whole consumption of Scotland; and the quantity of coffee is, undoubtedly, much greater. Would not the exclusive privilege of supplying the Sicilians with colonial produce be regarded as a boon by our planters? Might not this privilege be obtained, under the present circumstances of our connection with Sicily? If we garrison the fortresses, and continue the subsidy to the court, by which the people are exempted from a large portion of the expenses of the war, surely we could and ought to stipulate for some favour in return; and the privilege of selling colonial produce to the Sicilians might be a part of that favour. But, in the existing state of our colonial system, the court of Palermo might object to concede this privilege, because it would, in fact, be obliging its subjects to pay twenty-five *per cent.* more to the British, for the same kind of goods, which they obtain, at present, from the Americans. Were we to obtain, from the king of Sicily, the exclusive privilege of bringing colonial produce to his ports, and yet continue those existing restrictions, which oblige the planters to send their articles first to the United Kingdom, we should, in fact, levy a tax of twenty-five *per cent.* on the sugar and coffee consumed by the Sicilians. I do not say that we ought not to do this; but, were the point agitated in negociation, the king of Sicily has certainly a very solid ground of objection. Were we to grant our planters the freedom of direct intercourse with Malta, our own territory, and, it is to be hoped, an adopted and unalienable integral part of our empire, the objection of the Sicilian government would be obviated; because, by the vicinity of that island to Sicily,

we could then afford to furnish the Sicilians with colonial produce, on terms, at least equal to those of the Americans, even if we did not take any steps to exclude the Americans from the Mediterranean.

By extending to the colonies the right of direct intercourse with Malta, we should secure a monopoly of the supply of Turkey with coffee and sugar: of the former, the Turks, in proportion to their number, consume more than any other people, and are daily becoming greater consumers of the latter. In the course of my travels in Turkey, I found, every where, that the coffee with which I was served, had either been brought from Malta or Smyrna. The colonial produce sold at Smyrna, had either come from Malta, to which it had been brought by Americans, or been imported by the Americans themselves. It is only in the houses of the great, that the Mocha coffee is to be met with; and, at present, not often there, owing to the Wechabi, the reformers of the Mahomedan faith, having interrupted the regular supplies.

An important proportion of the produce of the colonies which we have taken from the enemy, is coffee; and the cultivation of that article, in our old plantations, is yearly increasing. To aspire to the monopoly of supplying Turkey with coffee, is impressed upon us by the state both of our old and new colonies. For excluding the Americans from Malta, even entirely, there can be no political complaint; far less for denying to them, in future, the privilege of carrying colonial produce there. They are not permitted to bring it into the ports of the United Kingdom; and, all circumstances considered, it is, certainly, very like negligence, if it be policy, to permit them to have, in a very great degree, a monopoly of the sugar and

coffee trade, with the countries round the Mediterranean; particularly to allow them to enter Malta on as free a footing as ourselves, and with those articles too, of which their sales operate to the detriment and loss of a numerous class of our own subjects. I do not know, whether our situation with the Porte is such, that we might attempt to procure a monopoly of the coffee trade to Turkey, by any public treaty. The Turks, individually, esteem us more than they do any other people; but our national influence is not, I am well convinced, by facts within my own knowledge, so great with the divan as that of the French. Were we to attempt to obtain, by treaty, any particular commercial privilege in Turkey, the French would immediately oppose us, and, I have no doubt, successfully. But, were we to relax our colonial system, and grant to our planters the right of direct intercourse with Malta, we should not require the dubious utility of diplomatic endeavours. The enterprise of our merchants would enable them to discover ways and means abundantly sufficient for securing the superiority and advantage which we ought to possess in the sale of colonial produce.

We ought, also, as the masters of Malta, to consider, prospectively, the state of our relations with Turkey. It is scarcely to be doubted, that, sooner or later, France, one way or another, will contrive to expel, from the Ottoman dominions, the few inconsiderable remnants, that still exist, of our Levant factories. We should, therefore, take some decisive way of fixing insular establishments in the Archipelago; establishments, which our navy enables us, effectually, to protect, and which, even in the event of another war with Turkey, might be

rendered perfectly secure, if judiciously selected. It is only by extending the ramifications of our insular policy from Malta, that we shall be able to maintain our superiority in the Mediterranean.

In proposing to grant the freedom of direct intercourse between the colonies and our Mediterranean possessions, an objection might be made by those mercantile houses at home, who hold mortgages on West Indian property: but this objection could only be of weight, against an argument for extending the freedom of intercourse to countries independent of our own. Nor can it be urged by those merchants, that any mortgages are held by them, on property in the newly-acquired plantations; and, therefore, if for no other reason than for the interests of the planters in them, some alteration in our colonial regulations should be made. If there are objections of any validity, on the part of the mortgagees, against allowing a free intercourse between the old colonies and our Mediterranean possessions, there can be none why that intercourse should not be granted to the new. Here we have a clear view of the absurdity of adhering, under the altered circumstances of the world, to those colonial regulations which were calculated for other times.

Another objection, apparently of more importance, presents itself. By bringing the produce of the colonies to the mother country, and there re-shipping it for its ultimate destination, it may be said, that a greater quantity of tonnage and number of seamen are employed, than would be were the produce at once sent from the colonies to the ultimate destination: but, it must be remembered, that, at present, only a small part, or, rather, none of our colonial produce

is consumed in the Mediterranean; so that the shipping and sailors that are supposed to be employed in this trade, have, in fact, no existence.

It is chiefly with respect to the colonial interests, that the trade of Malta requires the early consideration of government. The obstructions, which it, at present, suffers, may be obviated, by an act of the legislature, in the course of a few days, and without any investigation of the circumstances of the island. But those things which regard the law and administration of justice, should be examined with care, and proceeded in with caution.

SERIGO.

I LANDED on Serigo, at the small maritime village of Avlemana, with a gentleman who had agreed to travel with me as far as Constantinople. The village consists of a few straggling hovels, situated near a creek, which opens into a spacious bay, where vessels, passing to and from the Levant, are often obliged to take shelter from the violent winds, which, occasionally, render the passage, between the Morea and Candia, difficult and dangerous. The creek is guarded by a small castle, in which we found an officer and a party of soldiers, languishing for pastime. This military hermitage is dedicated to St. Nicolo. It has a tower in the middle, and is more like a bed-room candlestick than like any other article that I know. The officer was as hospitable to us, as his means, in so disconsolate a

place, could afford, and sent a soldier, to procure asses to bear us magnificently to the capital.

Near Avlemana are several traces of the ancient town of Scandia; and the ruins of a Grecian fortress are still visible. It was near this village, that a vessel foundered, with a part of the Athenian marbles, the spoils of the temple of Minerva. The cases, though many were of a great weight, and sunk to the depth of fourteen fathoms, were, afterwards, raised by sponge divers, and have since been transported to London. It is somewhat curious, that the vessel happened to bear the name of Mentor. The pillage of the Parthenon has been followed by a number of events, in the style of the miracles of the classics, almost, indeed, sufficient to reconvert the Greeks to the dread and adoration of their ancient deities.

The road from Avlemana to the town of Serigo, is just such as any reasonable man would expect to find in a mountainous island, thinly inhabited, negligently cultivated, and offering but small inducements to labour. In point of picturesque beauty, the scenery has some pretensions, and we passed through a valley, so green and goodly, that in any part of the world it would be considered a very pleasant one. It is well planted with vines and enlivened with neat white cottages. The sun was setting as we approached it, and the peasants, returned from labour, were reposing at their doors for the evening. After the monotony of a sea voyage, we felt the full pleasure of the effect of rural sights and sounds; and regarded the aspect of the valley as an assuring omen of finding ourselves comfortable in the town.

It was dark before we reached the house of the Consul. He

received us very kindly, provided us with lodgings, and with horses to send, in the morning, for our baggage. We found him a sensible, well-informed, hospitable man, much superior, both in condition and manners, to any of the British agents that I have met with in the islands of the Archipelago. He is considered, in point of property, the first person here. Next morning, we paid our respects to the governor, who pressed us to take up our abode in the castle. From him, as well as from the other officers of the garrison, we received the greatest attention during our stay in the island.

The castle, by its situation, is, naturally, very strong; and, though the works are at present commanded by a hill, on the west, from which they were attacked by the British, it might easily be made a formidable station. It stands on the brow of a lofty, abrupt, precipitous promontory. Towards the town the walls make a respectable shew. The mountains of Crete are seen from the windows of the governor's apartments; and, were corresponding signals established with Serigota, which lies about mid-way over, no vessels could pass, during the day, undiscovered. Serigo may justly be called the Centinel of the Levant, and, as such, in these times, it certainly might, to us, be rendered a valuable possession.

Serigo is about fifty English miles in circumference. It is divided into four districts, Potamo, Castrisso, Milopotamo, and Livadi; and contains forty villages, besides the capital. The population is estimated at eight thousand souls; of whom about twelve hundred are resident in the town. The face of the country is rocky and mountainous, the soil is stony, and, though rudely, the whole arable land is tilled. The cattle, of various kinds, are computed to

amount to fifteen hundred, the sheep to two thousand, and the goats to three thousand. The grain produced, in ordinary times, is barely sufficient for the inhabitants; and supplies are frequently wanted. The wine is all consumed in the island. It is of a weak watery quality, and is almost universally polluted with an infusion of lime. But for this ingredient, it would be acetous, owing to mismanagement in the fermentation, and the too free admission of the atmosphere. It may not be unwholesome, but it is, certainly, the most odious of mixtures. The oil is tolerable, and a small quantity is made, quite pellucid, and of the finest flavour, from selected olives. The island abundantly supplies itself with fire-wood; and has many excellent springs, one of which discharges so copiously, that it serves to turn several mills. The revenue, which amounts to upwards of twelve hundred pounds sterling, is raised by imposts on cattle, land, exports and imports. The regular civil public expenditure is about eight hundred pounds; so that there is a surplus for other purposes. Porphyry was anciently found here; and the island, in consequence, was, sometimes, called Porphyrcisos. The material, however, is no longer known in Serigo. I have, somewhere, heard it alleged, that porphyry is an artificial composition. The modern Greeks call it a paste. A good etymologist may discover something corroborative of this notion in the term porphyry. Perhaps the petrifactions in the grottos, which are numerous here, were employed in the manufacture.

Notwithstanding the general sterility of the soil, the island abounds in churches, of which more than twenty are in the town. The established religion is that of the Greek church. The

bishop is under the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan of Malvasia; and, in order to render his prayers the more efficacious, he is allowed the privilege of garnishing himself like an archbishop. His place is worth about a hundred and fifty pounds a year, exclusive of vails and perquisites.

A public school has been some time established; and, since the arrival of the British, it has been placed on a highly respectable footing. About ninety pounds sterling *per annum* are allowed for the salaries of the masters; a sum surprizingly liberal, considering the smallness of the population. The children are taught the classic and romaic Greek; also Latin, French and Italian, with writing and arithmetic; and they receive a slight tincture of mathematics. The house, appropriated to the academy, is an old Roman Catholic monastery—a most judicious conversion.

Serigo furnishes so little to export, and the inhabitants are so frugal and contented with their native articles, that the small trafficking upon its shores hardly merits the name of commerce. They have twenty-four boats, and one square-rigged vessel; and, it is supposed, that, at home and abroad, about two hundred and thirty men are employed in maritime affairs.

There are only two ports in the island; Avlemana, where we landed, and Capsalis, at the foot of the hill on which the Castle stands. Neither of them are good. The climate is healthy, but rather too violently ventilated. In addition to the garrison, a company of militia has been formed. The inhabitants have been described to us as a simple honest race, who dance to the lyre occa-

sionally, eat, drink, and depart this life without often violating, in any point, the golden rules of King Charles.

As I have already intimated, two or three relics of antiquity may be discovered in the island. About the time of the taking of Santa Maura, a marble lion was found. In commemoration of that event, it has been placed on a pedestal in the castle, and is regarded by the Serigots as a very worshipful thing. The greatest curiosities, in the island, are rocks in which the bones of animals are found inclosed. There are also several caverns of great extent, one of which we explored, with two officers, to a depth not before attempted.

We left the town in the morning for Milopotamo, in the vicinity of which the grotto lies. Our ride was over a bare and rugged country. We reached the village in safety, and left our horses at a monastery near the source of the large spring already mentioned. Here we procured candles, and a friar, who is the common guide; and, followed by a number of peasants, walked towards the entrance. In descending to that part of the coast, where the cave is situated, we passed a Venetian castle, which, by an inscription over the portal, appears to have been built in the year 1566. It stands at the head of a narrow shaggy glen, and reminded us of the feudal residences in our own country. From the castle, the path is, for the most part, over disagreeable harsh lava-like rocks. At the entrance of the grotto, we left our hats and coats, and bound our heads with handkerchiefs to protect them from the innumerable protuberances of the roof and sides. The arborescent appearance of the interior of this extensive cavern may be compared to a subterranean forest of

petrified trees. The windings are intricate; and the effect of the lights, in many places, was astonishingly fine. In passing a long narrow branching passage, one of our companions heard a low murmuring sound. We listened. It resembled the breathing of a living creature; and we became curious to know what it was. Our friend entered the passage, and proceeded about twenty yards, when his candle was suddenly blown out. He groped, in the dark, to discover the cause, and found a chink, through which the wind was issuing violently, but could see no light. No one, we were assured, by the traditionary historians, ever penetrated so far before. There is some sort of glory in accomplishing what no other has done, if it should be only in exploring the recesses of a cave. We, therefore, returned to the town pleased with our exploit.

The desire of perpetuity in mankind gave rise, among other practices, to the traveller's custom of inscribing his name on the remarkable objects that he has visited. In this cave we found, among others, that of the detestable wretch, Poerio. While this Calabrian traitor was governor of the island, a number of Albanian labourers, driven from the Morea by the severity of the extortions there, took refuge in Serigo, where they were desirous of settling; and, to obtain the privilege, paid Poerio a sum of money. They amounted to several hundreds. The island, at the time, happened to be scarce of corn, and the inhabitants murmured at the introduction of so many new mouths. Poerio, therefore, without repaying the money, ordered the Albanians to quit the island. They complained of his injustice, but prepared to obey. The wind was against them: they were undecided about their voyage; and, lingering

on the shore, were accused of intentionally delaying their departure. He resolved to get rid of them, and ordered the well which they frequented to be poisoned. Three and twenty died before they suspected the atrocious fact; the rest precipitately fled from the island. During the remainder of his government, the inhabitants scarcely ventured to whisper on the subject. After his departure, a copy of a letter to his superior officer, giving an account of the crime, was discovered among his papers, and the whole circumstances of the case have since been fully ascertained. The collective murderer has since been taken prisoner, and sent to England. General Oswald would have been honourably justified, had he sent him, at once, to a fitter place.

The scorpions in this island are uncommonly large. I measured one, which was no less than five inches in length. The officers of the garrison told us, that they had often matched the scorpions against mice, and uniformly observed, in the onset of the combat, that the reptile had the advantage of the animal; but, afterwards, the mouse, by tearing out a part of the scorpion's back, and eating it, recovered new vigour, and, ultimately, became the victor. Expecting to have had the gratification of seeing one of these contests, I omitted to inquire more particularly into the circumstances. If the fact be really as I understood, and have described it, the sagacity of the mouse entitles it to the consideration of philosophers, as well as of cats.

Serigo was first peopled by the Phœnicians, and from them it passed into the hands of the Lacedemonians. The Athenians sent a fleet against it during the Peloponesian war; and, landing a party

of troops near Avlemana, compelled the Lacedemonians to surrender. In the beginning of the thirteenth century, it was taken by the united French and Venetians, from the emperor of Constantinople; and, from the conclusion of the war, rested, with Zante and the other islands that form the Septinsular Republic, in the possession of the Venetians, till the year 1797, when it was declared a part of the Cispadana Republic. By the treaty of Campo Formio, the Seven Islands were assigned to the French; but, in 1799, the combined Russian and Ottoman fleet retook Serigo. By the treaty of Amiens, the Emperor of Russia was appointed protector of the independency of the Republic. In 1807, however, he abandoned his trust to the French; from whom, in October 1809, Serigo was taken by the British.

Serigo is the Cythera of the ancients, and was venerated by the Greeks as the birth-place of Venus. Her temple here was the oldest of all the temples raised to her in Greece, and she was annually worshipped on the sea shore, by the young damsels, with the same immodest exposures as in Cyprus.

The Asiatics, from time immemorial, have regarded the orbs of the sky as objects of adoration. It has been supposed, that, in Phœnicia, the planet which bears the name of Venus, was originally worshipped under that of Astarte; and, in consequence of the fables evidently wrought into the simple astrological superstition on which this worship was founded, it has also been supposed, that there was a queen of Phœnicia who bore, likewise, the name of Astarte; and that many of the human actions ascribed to the goddess, were, really, those of the queen.

The Grecian fable of Venus rising from the sea, on the shores of Cythera, is capable of a satisfactory explanation. The Phœnicians, when they peopled the island, no doubt, brought with them the adoration of so favourite a goddess. The fiction of her birth, may, therefore, have only reference to the importation of her worship.

The adoration of the celestial bodies, originated, undoubtedly, in the influences which the ancient astrologers ascribed to them. The Greeks, who were the greatest fabulists, may be considered as the chief corrupters of the astrological religion. Those crimes and deeds which form the histories of their deities, were, probably, perpetrated by human beings, who, like the Phœnician queen, bore celestial names. In the polytheism of the Greeks, there is a palpable mixture of religious allegory and secular fact.

An island so thinly peopled as Serigo, cannot produce, often, eminent men. The lyric poet Philosenes, was born here. He visited the court of Syracuse in the time of Dionysius, who, being also a constructor of verses, shewed some of his to Philosenes, and desired him to say what he thought of them. The critic told the tyrant, truly, that they were very bad. Dionysius, having been assured by his sycophants that he was a most incomparable bard, was exceedingly enraged at the impudence of Philosenes, and threw him into prison. He made, soon after, "an excellent new song," and sent for the poet to hear it. "Now, Philosenes," said he, "what do you say to that: is it not a fine thing?" "Send me back to prison," said Philosenes.

TURKEY.

We took leave of our hospitable friends in the castle, and of the consul, from whom we did not part with dry cheeks. In the pathetic moment of separation, he applied his mouth to them, and, without weeping, we found it necessary to wipe them. We then descended to the port, where a boat was waiting, to carry us to Marathonesi. In order to protect us from the pirates on the sea, and to procure us a favourable reception from the robbers on the land, an arrangement had been made, with a Mainot chieftain, who happened to be in Serigo, by which it was agreed, that we should call at the village where he then was, and take him with us; assured that, with him on board, there would be nothing to fear. When we arrived on that part of the coast, near to where the village is situated, we sent a man to inform this chieftain; but, after waiting upwards of six hours, we grew impatient, and sailed without him. A tedious and uninteresting passage of forty hours, brought us into the port of Marathonesi. But, before narrating our adventures, I ought to give some account of the people among whom we were about to trust ourselves.

MAINA.

Maina is a part of the ancient Lacedemonian territory, and it still merits the name The inhabitants were never, actually, sub-

Lacedemonia signifies the country of the devils.

dued, not even by the Romans. It is said, indeed, that Augustus had delivered the maritime towns of the Peloponnesus from the dominion of Sparta; but the inhabitants of this district were always known by the honourable title of the free Laconians. In the time of the imperial geographer, Constantine Porphyrogenitus, they had acquired the name of Mainots, which they still retain. Safe in the fastnesses of their mountains, they have maintained their independence; but with a various and troubled fortune. They make war, continually, with each other, chief against chief; but, whenever the Turks threaten them with subjugation, they firmly unite. Considering themselves, in some sort, as a nation allied to none, and their alliance by none sought, they commit those crimes, which, done with small and individual injury, provoke detestation; but, with great and general calamity, call forth the applause and gratitude of kingdoms. The Mainots are considered as robbers, because they are not able to destroy states and desolate empires; and pirates, because their cruisers are only boats.

In the year 1779, their feuds had taken a decided turn. The nation was rent into two great factions. The Turks seized that opportunity. By assisting one of the factions, they enabled it to attain the superiority, and procured, in recompence, a kind of acknowledgement of the sultan's sovereignty. There was still, however, a strong party in the country, which never, in fact, submitted to the arrangement; the terms of which were broadly these: that the sultan should have the nomination of the governor, who was to be always a Spartan; for they call themselves by that famous name; and, on condition that no Turks were allowed to enter the country,

the Mainots, on their part, agreed to pay a small annual sum, which they raised by a tax on oil. From that period, the condition of the Mainots has rather improved: and the Turks have not attempted to infringe the terms of their agreement. But, last year, (1809) an adventurer, of the name of Constantine, who had attached to himself a large band of followers, formed the idea of getting himself appointed governor. With this view, he waited on Vilhi Pashaw, the vizier of the Morea; and, knowing Vilhi's hereditary love of money, offered to pay him a large sum should he receive the appointment by his influence. The vizier grasped at the project, procured the commission, and Antonbey, who was then governor, and who had exercised his functions with much ability and beneficial effect, was, in consequence, deposed. The country, owing to this factious project of ambition, has again fallen into great disorder; and the party of Antonbey is so strong, that Constantine is unable to fulfil his engagement to Vilhi Pashaw, without bringing in a Turkish force, the introduction of which, probably, will end the nominal sovereignty of the sultan. The manners of these unconquered Greeks will best be described, by minutely relating the incidents which took place while we remained among them.

MARATHONESI.

It was near sunset when we entered the harbour of Marathonesi, formed, by Nature, in the bay, by a small rocky island, on which there is a little chapel, and a few trees. The town is placed at the bottom of a steep hill. A church, with a respectable steeple, stands on the side next the sea. At the foot of the hill, but overlooking the town,

there is a tall square tower, rounded at the corners of the battlements. A few trees are intermingled with the houses.

When we reached the shore, an old man, accompanied by a soldier, inquired what we were, and our business in Maina. Having received his answer, he desired us to remain in the boat while he informed the commandant of the town, and went away. In a short time he returned with several guards, who conducted us to the castle. We were led first into a kind of hall, where about a dozen warriors, with several women and children, were idling away the time. From the hall they conducted us up a rude staircase into an apartment less dirty, but scarcely better furnished. Here we were introduced to a chieftain who was sitting with several others, evidently officers. The commandant was not in the town; but the chieftain acted for him; and, being satisfied of the innocency of the motives that had induced us to land on their unfrequented coast, he assured us that we were in perfect safety during our abode in the country.

The dress of these men was pretty much like that of the common Greeks, but closer fitted, and better calculated for efforts of activity. They all wore their hair long and flowing, a peculiarity of the Spartans even so far back as the great invasion of Xerxes, who was exceedingly indignant when he saw the little band of Leonidas carelessly combing theirs on the evening before the all-famous battle of Thermopylæ. Our examination finished, a Greek, from the interior of the Morea, informed us, that he would be very glad to lend us his house. This poor man had been a merchant in Mistra; but, having offended Vilhi Pashaw, he was fined in a sum greater than all his means, and obliged to take refuge here. We gladly accepted his

offer. One may admire a hardy and intrepid race, who have, for so many ages, retained their national characteristics; but their habitations are calculated rather to excite the opposite feeling.

The dress of the women consists of a petticoat of cotton cloth, a few inches from the bottom of which a broad stripe of blue or of red is the only ornament. They wear a short bed-gown for their upper dress; and, on their heads, a handkerchief fixed to the little Grecian red cap. They appeared to be the chief labourers of the fields. But the delicacy of the sex was never known among the Spartans. In one of their early wars, all the men happened to be drawn from the city. As they had sworn not to return until they accomplished their object, the women made a representation to the army, that, unless some were sent back, the race must become extinct. Fifty of the stoutest fellows were, accordingly, ordered to Sparta. Their offspring, finding themselves afterwards slighted, emigrated to Italy.

When we had taken some refreshment, we went out to walk. Several boys followed us, and pointed out an inscription, on a rock, in very antient Greek characters. The doctor of the town, a talkative native of Corfu, fell in with us as we were returning home, and told us, that he had not heard of any one that could read the inscription. We also met the commandant, attended by half a dozen guards. He was handsomely dressed in the style of the country; and his personal appearance and manners struck us as transcendantly elegant. My imagination, which, from the scene in the castle, had become full of the blue and white melancholy of Ossian, was surprized with so distinct a vision of Oscar. He came

up to us very courteously; and, taking off the little red cap which covered his hair, and which he wore somewhat doffed, invited us to go with him to a shop-door, where he treated us with a dram. There are but two other shops in the town, the whole population, probably, not exceeding five hundred souls. Notwithstanding the homeliness of the entertainment, there was so much dignity about himself, and so much reverence in the treatment that he received from all around him, that we irresistibly felt ourselves highly-honoured guests. After a few slight inquiries, for he did not appear to be a man of many words, he repeated the assurances of security, and seemed rather hurt when we asked if he would furnish us with guards to Mistra. He requested the doctor, who acted as interpreter on the occasion, to say, that the Mainots never molest travellers; adding, that, even if we had killed the governor of Serigo, no Mainòt would dare to give us up. While we were sitting at the shop-door, a crowd gathered round. He waved his hand for them to keep off, and they instantly retired. He then invited us to take a walk; and, ordering his guards to remain where they were, he took with him a tall, awkward, humourous looking fellow, whom the doctor informed us was a chieftain, that had a castle in the interior, from which he had lately been driven by a party of his enemies. The young commandant walked on in silence before us, till we reached the middle of a field, at some distance from the town. It was a retired place. He suddenly halted. Our fancies, in the mean time, were coming thickly. We looked at each other. The sun was down, and the twilight was obscure. But he only inquired if we had any news. Perceiving that he was anxious to get correct informa-

tion, we told him frankly and faithfully all that we knew of the wars in Christendom and Turkey. Our conversation then turned upon those of Maina; and he told us, with warmth, that all the inhabitants earnestly desired either the French or British to come among them. I was amused with the shrewd sense of his friend, in reply to a question of mine, respecting the martial disposition of the Mainots. "We just do," said he, "like the French and English, and cannot tell why." When we returned into the town, we saw a great number of additional soldiers in the street. They were sitting at the doors, but rose up as the commandant approached, and stood, bending slightly forward, with their right hands on their breasts. Their gaunt looks, and uncouth figures, contrasted with the extraordinary gracefulness of their chief, seemed to me indescribably ludicrous. They appeared, I thought, as if they had just finished a pulmonic cough, and were in the act of spitting. He conveyed us home, and bade us good night with infinitely more grace than a play-actor in the character of Norval.

In the morning we were visited by two friends of the commandant. The father of one of them had once been governor of Maina; and he himself held the rank of major in the Russian service. He spoke French and Italian fluently; and was, in other respects, a sedate, sensible man.

BATHI.

After breakfast, we embarked for Bathi, the residence of Antonbey, to whom we were recommended. Bathi is about eight miles distant, by water, from Marathonesi. In sailing along the coast,

we passed under the little town of Mavroyuni, which has also its protecting castle. The bay, between it and the residence of Anton-bey, affords agreeable prospects; such, indeed, as are rarely to be met with in the Levant. Round the shore, a number of small green hills rise, successively, beyond each other: many of them are naturally decorated with trees, and several of them are crowned with castellated houses, and their vassal cottages. The back ground consists of lofty mountains, terminated on the North, and overlooked, by the stupendous summits of St. Lea, the ancient Taygetus. Bathi stands on the brow of a small promontory, which is mantled with shaggy underwood. The appearance of the castle is similar to that of many of our lesser old baronial mansions. I have been always partial to descriptions of feudal manners; and the interior œconomy of this fortified abode, instead of surprizing me by its novelty, seemed more like a place with which I was already familiar, than only the resemblance of an idea which had been derived from reading.

We were met on the brow of the hill by a scout, who had been sent to inquire what we were; and conducted by him into the castle. In the gateway, a number of retainers were slumbering away the tedium of unoccupied time. The court was dirty with rubbish, offal, and excrements. Hogs were confined in a corner; but the poultry and ducks enjoyed the range of its whole extent. We ascended into the keep by a zigzag stair on the outside, evidently so contrived as to be defended. The landing-place was moveable, and served for a drawbridge. The door, narrow, opened into a hall, where a number of long-haired soldiers were sitting. They rose, as we entered, in

order to make way for us to ascend the stairs which led to the apartment of the prince. The walls of the presence-chamber were hung with bundles of arms, clokes, and petticoats. A bed occupied the farthest corner, under which I perceived a large, antique, carved coffer; but my eye searched in vain for a more common utensil. Along the sides of the room were benches, covered with cushions; and, on a shelf, I saw several inverted coffee-cups, two or three bottles, and other articles of the cupboard. Antonbey, a strong hale carle, was sitting near the bed when we entered, and beside him an old priest. I think he appeared to be about sixty. The first glance of him, with what had been passing in my mind before, suggested the figure of Hardyknute. Opposite sat his lady, with large rings on her fingers, but otherwise slovenly dressed. On her one side was a warlike relation, with a snuff-box in his hand; and, on the other, she had also her ghostly comforter. She was younger than the prince, and still possessed the remains of beauty. They all rose up as we entered; and the old chieftain received us with a kind of honest gladness — that military frankness, which gains at once the esteem of strangers. He expressed himself highly gratified by a visit from British subjects, having only once before enjoyed that pleasure. Like the governor of Marathonesi, he told us how much all the inhabitants desired the arrival of a Christian power. By the vicinity of Idra, they have learnt the benefits of commerce, and have acquired such a knowledge of the world, as to desire the termination of their predatory practices. Antonbey himself was, in his youth, a courageous and famous pirate. He told us that he had visited Venice, Trieste, and Ancona. When we had conversed with him some

time, he took us to see a statue which he had lately found. He said it was generally considered to be the effigy of Lycurgus; but I think it is a Neptune. The worship of that deity, and of Venus, continued in this country five hundred years after they were proscribed in the Roman world. He told us, also, that, if it would be acceptable, he would send it to London, to the King; and was not a little diverted, when we assured him that Neptune was one of his Majesty's favourite Gods.

On returning to his room, we found the curtains of the bed down, and perceived, through them, the princess asleep.

A small repast, of broiled meat and cheese, fried with eggs, was prepared for us; in addition to which, we had an excellent melon and a draught of wine, which was recommended to us under the name of Spartan; certainly, it had no other quality to tempt us to drink it. But such, probably, was the fare of Paris at the court of Menelaus. With a feast so classical, who could not be pleased? We were pressed to remain two or three days, and were promised the pleasure of successful hunting; but, neither of us being sportsmen, the inducement was not great, especially as we considered that we ran some risk of being ourselves shot at for rare game. It was not, however, without difficulty, that we resisted the pressing kindness of our host; who, when he found we were fixed on setting off next morning from Marathonesi, gave us recommendatory letters to several of the Turkish governors, his friends. He also sent one of his men with us, to be landed at Mavroyuni, in order to procure horses to take us next day to Mistra. Mavroyuni was then a neutral state; but Marathonesi was belligerent, and adverse to Antonbey:

it was, therefore, necessary for us likewise to send a minister, in order to bring the answer, the Bathian envoy being afraid of approaching Marathonesi.

A FRENCH PROJECT.

In the year 1797, the French government sent two Greeks on a private mission to these parts. The narrative of their voyage contains a great deal of information, relative to the islands which the British have since obtained in the Adriatic, and to the country of Maina. On this occasion Buonaparté, who was then in Italy, wrote a letter to the Mainot governor, of which I have given a copy in the Appendix.

The alterations in the French nation, since 1797, have materially diminished the esteem which its pretensions in the outset of the revolution had raised among the sanguine and theoretical; but its solid accessions of power have rendered its influence, to the full, as dangerous and commanding as ever. Buonaparté has, not long since, with that masterly decision which has often almost anticipated the necessity of other measures, declared that the Ionian islands, the very islands in our possession, are inseparable parts of the French empire. By this politick impudence, he has revived, in them, the courage of the partizans of France, and dismayed the confidence of our friends, who now look forward to become subjects of Napoleon, and necessarily, in consequence, regard our possession of the islands, only as the temporary occupancy of military posts during the war.

Much of the paralysis of our foreign policy is owing to the defective sources of our information. Government relies, for its knowledge of the countries reduced by our arms, chiefly on the reports of public officers; persons, of all others, the least capable, from the peculiarities of their situations, to furnish that kind of information which is requisite to guide a government. Officers are only visited by those who give them interested representations; and they are themselves, commonly, not inclined to treat with much suavity others of a different description, more especially such as they are taught to believe averse to their schemes. There is a difficulty in the execution of erroneous measures, which, not unfrequently, attracts attention, and, sometimes, extorts amendment: hence, mistakes, arising from the want of previous knowledge in ruling new acquisitions, are rectified by experience: but in the outset of expeditions the consequences are different. The want of local details, as much as deficiency of judgment in the planning, has sullied our history with many unsuccessful enterprizes. The French act otherwise. The mission of the Greeks was expressly for the purpose of obtaining preliminary knowledge; and, at this moment, there are other similar French agents abroad, of whom I may have occasion to speak elsewhere.

A JOURNEY.

Soon after we had landed again at Marathonesi, our servant returned, and told us that the horses would be ready very early next day, and that they would be attended by a guard of six men, to protect them back. Accordingly, about three o'clock in the

morning, we were knocked up, and a band of six robber-like fellows entered our apartment, and obstreperously urged us to make haste. Before we could get ourselves ready, our beds packed, and our baggage placed on the horses, the day began to dawn. Our danger was, probably, increased by this circumstance, but so was also our pleasure. We rode for several miles along the romantic shores of the Gulf; and it is not easy to imagine a more delightful landscape than was gradually brightening around. When we turned into the country, the road lay through fine valleys, the sides of which are, naturally, so adorned with oaks, and other venerable and stately trees, that, in many places, we were reminded of the parks and pleasure-grounds of England. We passed the castles of several chieftains, and saw one of more than ordinary magnitude, which had been lately taken and burnt. "The blackness of ashes" was within the walls, and the trees on the outside had not recovered from the scorching of the flames.

After riding slowly for three hours, the baggage-horses being incapable of going fast, and our own equally provoking animals, we found ourselves passing into a spacious valley, bounded, on the left, by the high mountains which run from Cape Matapan into the centre of the Morea, and, on the right, by the inferior parallel chain which separates the plain country of Laconia from the Gulf of Argos. We halted at Daphnis, one of the most advanced Turkish border villages towards the frontiers of Maina. Having a letter for the governor, we went to the castle, a square embattled tower, placed in the middle of a court, inclosed with a wall, perforated for musquets. The governor had gone, the day before, to

Mistra; but his servants, who were all busy about the killing of a calf, took us in, and did their best to make us a dinner. The interior of this habitation was similar to that of the castle of Marathonesi, but much more slovenly kept, and as defectively furnished.

From Daphnis to Mistra the face of the country improves; and the valley narrowing, the scenery, particularly on the left, becomes grandly alpine. The fields are tolerably well cultivated; and the bright green of innumerable mulberry-trees is pleasantly diversified by the dark shades of many olives. In the course of our ride, we did not happen to approach the banks of the Eurotos, but we crossed several of its tributary streams; and our ears were refreshed with the sound of waters purling under bushes. The prattle of these little nereids was an agreeable solace after the hoarse roaring of Neptune. At sunset we had a view of Mistra picturesquely scattered down the side of a steep hill, and crowned with a castle so aërially high, that it seemed rather to have been intended to attack the Gods than to resist the invasions of men. Approaching Sparta, our heads teemed with recollections almost forgotten. Happening to observe a singular flaky phenomenon of clouds, beautifully concatenated along the sky, which was otherwise perfectly spotless, we were reminded of Jupiter's visits to the blameless race of Ethiopia, and fancied that it was the procession of his return to Olympus.

MISTRA.

A few miles before reaching the town, our guards left their musquets and pistols in the cottage of an Albanian, the Christian

subjects not being allowed to carry arms in the Turkish dominions. It was dark before we arrived. At first, we were apprehensive of being obliged to disturb the governor, to whom Antonbey had particularly recommended us, in order to obtain an abode for the night, and began, of course, to execrate, as an irrational custom, the early hour at which the Turks go to bed. Our fears, however, were not of long duration. We were directed to a Greek house, usually frequented by the British travellers, where we got a very good apartment; and, if sycophancy and obsequiousness were meat and drink, we might have supped most heartily. My companion, never having seen any Greeks, except the brief-speaking Mainots, who scarcely, in any thing but in the words of their language, resemble the modern Greeks, was charmed with the manners of our host; but the gilding of compliment will not long pass for the substance of hospitality. We were obliged, in the end, to order our own servant to superintend the providing of our meals during the remainder of our stay.

Mistra, though generally described as the successor of the ancient Sparta, stands at the distance of two or three miles from extensive piles of ruins, which are properly considered as the remains of that more famous city. The modern town itself is also fast becoming an object of curiosity for the wandering antiquaries. Not above the fourth part of it is inhabited; and churches, moschs and private houses, are tumbling to pieces. The church, which the Greeks call Perileptos, and which, with their innate propensity to exaggeration, they say was one of the most beautiful in the world, is far gone into decay, and never could have been an object of admiration to any tra-

veller from the westward. Before the late Russian war, in which the Morea was attacked, the population of Mistra was reckoned at twelve thousand souls; and, from the apparent extent of the town, I should think this estimate not greatly beyond the truth. At present, the number of two thousand is sufficient to include every one in the town and suburbs. Among the ruinous buildings of Mistra, several fragments of sculpture, the works of the classic ancients, are seen. We were shewn a magnificent sarcophagus, adorned with figures, and the fruit and foliage of the vine. It serves as the trough to a fountain, and has been much defaced by the pitchers of the water-carriers.

We called on the governor, a venerable looking old man, to whom we had letters from Antonbey. He received us with much courtesy, and entertained us, according to the custom of the Turks, with pipes and coffee. He also gave orders to the postmaster to furnish us with horses, and ordered a guard to attend us as far as Tripolizza. The apartment in which he was sitting, in company with several other Turks, was a fair specimen of the condition of the town. The windows were falling from the sashes; and the greatest part of the panes being broken, the vacancies were supplied with paper.

In returning from the government-house, we passed the archbishop of Lacedemon coming from church. He stopped, and invited us to his residence, where he also entertained us with pipes and coffee. We dined with him next day, and received a substantial ecclesiastical dinner. He is a respectable old man, and distinguished for the vigour with which he maintains his authority. He has a little humour, and afforded us some amusement; but I was much more

diverted by an accidental truth that escaped from his brother, who is still more lively than the archbishop. On inquiring what might be the amount of the archiepiscopal income, he told us, that it was barely sufficient for the maintenance of the prelate; adding, if it pleased God to take away some of the priests and bishops of the province, the price of the new ones would enable him to live very comfortably. The situation of the palace (I do not know why a Greek archbishop's house may not be called a palace, and himself a Grace, as well as any other metropolitan) is singularly fine. It stands high, on the side of the hill on which the town is built, and commands a view of the whole long hollow valley of Sparta, the most fertile and beautiful tract of the Morea.

The archbishop kept two horses, both excellent and handsome, which Vilhi Pashaw hearing of, sent and took one of them away. I ought not to omit mentioning my being told by his Grace's brother, that Melettio, lately an archbishop of Athens, has said, in his geographical work, that Scotland, which, three centuries ago, was one of the most barbarous nations of Christendom, was now become an example to all the world. It is a curious instance of the vicissitudes of things, that the chief priest of Athens should have occasion to praise so highly the intellectual proficiency of any nation, while his own, that once so greatly excelled every other, has fallen into extreme ignorance.

After dinner, which was served about mid-day, we went to see the ruins of Sparta. The imagination, without much effort, in surveying the environs, may form an idea of an extensive town; though the remains are covered with grass. The city of the stern

and warlike Spartans, has become a walk for harmless sheep. The ruins which we examined, have been, originally, buildings constructed with the fragments of more ancient and splendid edifices. We saw, sticking in one of the walls, several broken pieces of elegant fluted columns, and part of a frize, ornamented with grapes and wheat ears, that, probably, once belonged to a temple of Ceres. Near these relicks there is a defaced inscription, which, had it been suffered to remain, might have told us what they were. It was defaced, as we were informed, by two Frenchmen, who, because they could not read it themselves, chipped it off out of spite to the British travellers. Perhaps these buildings were built after the great earthquake in the time of Archidamus; during which, the effect of the Spartan discipline was displayed in so striking a manner, that I cannot conceive any thing more sublime. While the public games were performing, and the theatre was crowded, the earth suddenly began to tremble, the walls of the buildings, opening and shaking, tumbled to the ground, the mountains at the same time rocking with the general commotion threw down vast fragments from their summits. In the midst of these tremendous circumstances, while the city was resounding with the shrieks of terror, and the cries and lamentations of the wounded and despairing, the signal of alarm was heard, and every one, instantly, rushed with alacrity to his post. Archidamus, apprehending that the slaves might seize the moment of amazement to rise and massacre their masters, had ordered the signal to be sounded. Next to this event, may be reckoned the firmness with which the Ephori received the news of the battle of Leuctra, and the effect of the tidings on the city. They were sitting

in the theatre, when the messengers arrived with the account of the death of the king, Cleombrotus, and the destruction of his army. Without appearing to have received any extraordinary intelligence, they sent to the different families, to inform them of their loss, and the public diversions proceeded as if nothing had happened. The loss of the battle of Leuctra is the greatest stain on the fame of the Spartans; but the joy of the parents who had lost their sons, and the grief and dejection of those whose sons had survived the disgrace, was a proof that the spirit of the institutions of Lycurgus had not declined.

The laws of Lycurgus, so famous for the austere modes of life which they enforced, lose much of their peculiarity if we consider them as military institutes. We have only to regard the citizens of Sparta as forming a garrison, to perceive, that the regulations for our own soldiers are, in every respect, as severe in their enactments. Lycurgus had, certainly, in view, the formation of a conquering people. Among other means that he adopted, to accomplish his purpose, may be added the importation of the Iliad; for he is said to have been the first that brought the works of Homer into Greece; and the Iliad will always be the Bible of Heroism.

From the ruins of Sparta we passed into an adjoining field, in order to see a building which is called the house of Helen and Menelaus. It appears to have been a monastery. One of the tricks of the inhabitants of antiquarian regions is to give famous names to things, for the purpose of enhancing their importance. We afterwards were shewn the remains of a small square building, constructed with large wrought stones. It, of course, must also have an

interesting title; and, therefore, it is called the tomb of Agamemnon and his two sons. It is certainly, however, really an ancient work; and a scafiating antiquary might find himself recompensed by digging it up. In returning to Mistra, we passed through a fine grove of lofty trees, the foliage of which had all the lustre and freshness of spring. This year (1810) a remarkable irregularity was observed in the vegetation of these latitudes. In Malta, the orange trees had assumed, in June, an appearance like what they exhibit, ordinarily, in October, and afterwards recovered their seasonable beauty.

The environs of Mistra abound in mulberry trees. Before the first Russian war, the silk produce was reckoned at seventy-five thousand pounds weight. Since that time, owing to the oppressions which the inhabitants have suffered, in consequence of the ill-judged ambitious project of Catherine in then attempting to seize the Morea, the cultivation has been neglected; and, at present, it does not amount to thirty thousand pounds.

On returning to our lodgings, we were visited by two physicians. One of them a Septinsularian, ignorant and impertinent; the other, a lively German. He called himself Baron Stein, and said that he had been obliged to run away from Vienna, about nine years ago, for being concerned in a duel. We found him well bred, and exceedingly facetious. The Septinsular doctor informed my companion, that he had the misfortune to be married to a devil; and the German, at the same time, told me, that his wife was little inferior to an angel, and invited us to see her. In the evening we gave a ball and supper to the Ephori and their families. Our Spartan supper would have merited the approbation of Lycurgus himself. It con-

sisted of a pig and a leg of mutton, with other similar delicacies. Both the devil and the angel made their appearance at our banquet. The former had nothing infernal in her looks; and I think the German was right in saying, that she was made savage by her brute of a husband. His own wife merited some of the praises that he so lavishly bestowed on her. He excused her slow movements in the dance, by whispering to me, that she was a month advanced in pregnancy. His rival, the Septinsularian, soon after, took an opportunity of informing me, that she had been married from the haram of Vilhi Pashaw. We found ourselves speedily acquiring a knowledge of all the scandal of the town.

TRIPOLIZZA.

It was the afternoon when we left Mistra. We crossed the Eurotos, a clear and rapid stream; and, ascending the hills which close the north end of the valley of Mistra, had a pleasant ride through well-cultivated fields and vineyards, till we reached the khan, where we resolved to rest for the night. Our apartment would not have discredited a Sicilian locanda. The floor was broken and frail, and in one corner a flock of poultry was at roost. Nevertheless, as the day had been very warm, and we had taken a great deal of exercise, we slept soundly till daylight, when we again proceeded on our journey. The country, as we approached the capital, is bare of wood, and the aspect of the scenery cheerless.

On our arrival at Tripolizza, we sent to the magistrate who takes cognizance of strangers, to know where we should lodge; the khan having been, a few days before, destroyed by fire. While waiting

for the return of our messenger, a Frenchman, whom I had known before, happened to pass, and proposed to accommodate us. We gladly accepted his offer. In a short time after, the Kaimakam, or deputy of the vizier, for Vilhi Pashaw himself had departed to the war, sent his principal dragoman, to inquire how we were satisfied with our lodgings, and to offer us any thing that we wanted. He told us also, that the Vizier, prior to his departure, had left orders to give his compliments to the British travellers, and to furnish them with passports, and every thing necessary for their accommodation; but to request them not to go into any of the fortresses, where they might be liable to insult from the new garrisons; the old ones, accustomed to them, being removed.

The character of Vilhi Pashaw, of which I had only obtained a faint and imperfect account before, is one of the most extraordinary among the Turks. In his manners he is singularly agreeable, and, with a strong dash of humour, is eminently shrewd and cunning. He is a great admirer of European customs, and professes to have a high esteem for the British, to whom, on all occasions, he has shewn a marked and flattering partiality. He speaks several languages, and has some pretensions to taste. He has ordered Pausanias to be rendered into the romaic Greek; and, in passing to the war, visited the antiquities of Athens, in order to see, as he declared, himself, those remains and monuments which attract so many Europeans so far from home. To individual distress he is tender and generous; he is a liberal and indulgent master; and his residence in the Morea has been distinguished for vigour and impartiality in the administration of public justice. But, opposed to these qualities, he is said to

be abandoned to the most licentious appetites. The extortions of his government have been carried to an incredible extent. It is related, that, on one occasion, when the Greeks assured him that they could pay no more, he remarked, that they had not yet brought in their perforated chequins, meaning those which the women are in the practice of wearing round their necks, and as ornaments for their hair. It is unnecessary to relate any of the many instances of sorrow and misery which have arisen from his unbridled appetite and remorseless extortion.

Before his departure from Tripolizza, it was proposed to him, by several of the old Turks, to massacre a number of the Greeks, in revenge for those who are serving in the Russian armies; but he rejected the atrocious proposition with the indignation that it deserved, and ordered the framers of it to accompany him to the war, with all their followers. I have heard this anecdote frequently mentioned, and I believe it is true. He has left the Morea entirely free of robbers, but he has also reduced it to a state of great poverty. Where nothing is left to be stolen, there is little merit in extirpating the few that would steal. Nor will the personal security of an occasional traveller, ever be valued as an equivalent for the extensive desolation that ensures it.

The kaimakam having hurt his leg, by a fall from his horse, was confined to bed, and unable to receive us. Having, therefore, no inducement to remain another day in so dirty and beggarly a place as Tripolizza, we ordered horses early next morning, and bade it adieu.

ARGOS.

Instead of taking the regular road to this city, we struck off to the right, before leaving the mountains, in order to visit the Lernian lake; which is situated on the margin of the gulf, opposite to the fortress of Napoli Romania. The destruction of the hydra which infested this place, was one of the greatest achievements of Hercules. Considering the whole polytheistical stories of the Greeks as a mixture of fact and allegory, I was desirous of seeing the lake, in order to try if the labour of killing the hydra could be explained by any local circumstance. Hydra, I need not mention, signifies water, in Greek. This lake, except in one place, which is not twenty yards wide, but of an unfathomable depth, is an extensive rushy and pestiferous morass. Abandoning, therefore, as pure fable, the stories respecting the venomous blood of the hydra, I think, as Hercules employed fire and iron in the destruction of the monster, we may conclude, that his labour consisted in burning away the rushes, and in opening a free passage to the water. The description of the heads growing again as fast as he cut them off, is exactly such as would be given of an attempt to eradicate the personification of a similar spring.

The Lernian lake is, at present, on the one side, surrounded with a low wall, which serves to dam up the waters, which are now employed in turning several mills. A small village stands near it; and, while we were there, a number of Turkish women, sitting on the shore, were amusing themselves in looking at the peasants loading and discharging boats with corn. The evening was calm, and a

fresh fragrancy rising from the aquatic flowers and plants which covered the surface of the morass, combined to repress the conviction in our minds, that the hydra still merited again the fire and iron of Hercules.

Ordering our baggage to go on before, as I was acquainted with the road, we afterwards proceeded to view the great spring of Eracinos, which rushes, at once a river, from a grotto at the foot of a bare rocky mountain. I imagine, that the waters of the Lernian lake have some connexion with the same great reservoir from which the Eracinos flows; and it is commonly believed to be the lake Stimphali. I do not recollect of ever being informed where the Hyperian spring is situated; but, from the description given by Homer, in the parting of Hector and Andromache, it seems not altogether unlikely that he meant the Eracinos, from its vicinity to Argos. The looms of Argos, which, he also mentions, were, till the twelfth century of the Christian æra, famous for their tapestry, are now no longer employed in such costly fabricks. Their richest productions are striped sashes and turbans.

Greece was the first country of Christendom which obtained the silk-worm; and Corinth, Thebes, and Argos, were the cities most celebrated for the beauty of their tissues. After the sack of Corinth and Thebes, in the twelfth century, the art of cherishing the silk-worm, and the weaving of brocades, was introduced into Sicily, by prisoners carried from those cities. In the year 1314, Lucca enjoyed almost a monopoly of the trade in Italy. It was, soon after, introduced into France. In the year 1620 the broad silk manufacture was established in England; and, in the course of the last century

the manufacture of ribbands, and the flimsy gauze, was carried into Scotland.

Our deviations from the road made our arrival later than we expected; but, having orders to the governor to provide us with a house, we thought that we should meet with no difficulty. We, therefore, rode at once to the Greek primate's, whose duty is to see these orders executed. He received us with all the habitual and fraudulent sycophancy of his nation, and directed us to a house which he said was already prepared. When we knocked at the gate, (for the houses of Argos, and throughout Greece, are entered by courts,) we were refused admittance. We then returned again to the primate, and begged him to accommodate us; but he told us, in a rude manner, to go to the guard-house, and take men to force the door. Exceedingly exasperated at so singular a reply, we did not spare to treat him with the contempt that his conduct merited. It was now past ten o'clock, and the whole town was gone to sleep. Having no other alternative, we went to the government house, scarcely venturing to hope that we should find a Turk more accommodating than this execrable Christian. The governor was in bed, but he immediately sent an officer, with orders not to return until he saw us provided with lodgings. We begged that he would insist on the primate himself receiving us; but, without a special command from Tripolizza, he said, it could not be done. He took us to another house, in which there were only women, and they also refused to admit us. The night was now so far advanced that we began to be less scrupulous than we were at first; but, reluctant to use force, we attempted to persuade them to open the door. While our interpreter

was using all the arguments he could to procure an amicable surrender, the officer went to the guard-house, and brought about a dozen soldiers. In a moment the wall was scaled, the doors burst open, and we had the glorious satisfaction of entering, like other triumphant heroes, amidst the cries and lamentations of terrified helpless women. The moment that we gained admission, like judicious conquerors, we endeavoured to pacify the fears of the vanquished, and succeeded without much difficulty. It was imagined that the husband was in the house, and that he had instigated the opposition to our entrance; but it was not the case. When the guard had retired, several of the neighbours came to condole with the women, and we found them useful in procuring materials for our supper. For, notwithstanding the shocking nature of the outrage, our national name, and the apologies that we made, soon effectually removed all the terror of it from their minds. Early in the morning, the governor sent his compliments, and to inquire if we would stay to dinner. After breakfast we paid him a visit, and he entertained us with sherbet, in addition to the customary pipes and coffee; he was, indeed, extremely disposed to indemnify us for the inconvenience we had suffered. We complained to him of the conduct of the primate, and he told us that it was not in his power, in any way, to punish him. He ordered, however, the master of the first house to be brought before him, in our presence, and inquired whether we would have him flogged, or imprisoned, or fined. We had already occasioned a sufficient display of oppression, and, therefore, begged him off; not forgetting, however, to animadvert on the shame and

impropriety of exposing Christians to the risk of passing the night in the streets of a Turkish town.

There is little about Argos to detain a stranger. The ancient ruins are trifling, and their form almost obliterated. A few sculptures have lately been found; but those that we saw were of no value, the best having been sold to a British traveller, and shipped, a short time before, to Malta. Near the government house there is a Turkish academy, the buildings of which are rather a favourable specimen of Ottoman architecture. The number of students is not reckoned at more than thirty, for the main population of the town consists of Greeks and Albanians.

The celebrity of Argos has, principally, arisen from its connection with Agamemnon and Orestes, whose actions have so often furnished themes to the epic and tragic poets. Hamlet, in many of its incidents, has a strong resemblance to the story of Orestes. Shakespear has, perhaps, made more use of the classic authors than is generally thought; and a patient student might yet form an amusing essay, by attempting to discover resemblances between his subjects and the stories of antiquity. In his time translations were not rare. Horace was translated into English in the reign of Henry or Mary.

CORINTH.

Owing to some misunderstanding with the postman, it was three o'clock in the afternoon before we got horses. We were, therefore, obliged to ride smartly, in order to arrive in time to obtain lodgings; but, having the ruins of Mycenæ to inspect, it was so late

before we reached Corinth, that we occasioned a transaction scarcely less disagreeable than what had taken place in Argos. We did not, indeed, actually storm the house, but we obliged the inhabitants to quit their beds, and find other lodgings. While we lamented the condition of a people exposed to such contumely, we could not well forgive ourselves for having delayed our journey so late, as to render us the cause of making any of them feel it. There is nothing to be seen at Mycenæ, worth the trouble of going to see. The sight of two rudely-sculptured lions over the gate of a fortress, and a subterranean, hollow cone, that was commonly called, and believed to be, the tomb of Agamemnon, until Vilhi Pashaw, by digging for antiquities lately, near it, discovered another of the same kind, dissolved entirely the charm of this opinion,—were all that we had to boast, after riding over a rugged road, through a dangerous pass, in the night, and having been the cause of a gross and shameful outrage. By postponing our journey till the following morning, the disagreeable circumstances, might have been avoided; but would the sight have been an equivalent for the delay?

Corinth offers as little as Argos to the attention of the traveller. The famous towns of Greece are, indeed, rather to be considered as places where recollections and trains of thought are excited, than as affording spectacles deserving of notice. Those who are delighted with the sight of such fragments as Corinth and Mycenæ exhibit, appear, to me, to affect a sensibility that belies nature. Antiquity is a wrinkled and aged dame; and it is only by her tales she interests us.

We remembered that, in Corinth, Xenophon, when banished from Athens, wrote his account of the retreat of the Greeks who

went to assist an Asiatic prince to dethrone his brother. This work of Xenophon is a remarkable instance how much the fame of literary is more permanent than that of military merit. Nor could we forget the fratricide of Timoleon. His brother Timophanes had successfully opposed him in some political intrigue; he, therefore, persuaded two of his friends to murder him. The crime of Timoleon has been held forth as a splendid instance of public virtue. But, conceiving the Greeks to have been in no respect whatever more excellent than the moderns, I do think the action of Timoleon was neither more nor less than a detestable crime. Reasons may have been discovered to extenuate its atrocity, but the dye of the deed remains unchanged.

Of all the illustrious ancients that made Corinth their occasional residence, the apostle Paul has attained the greatest celebrity, and yet is the least remembered by travellers. After leaving Athens, he came here, and wrought as a tent-maker, not being paid for his preaching. In the history of his stay in Corinth, we have as singular an instance of the tolerant spirit of the Roman jurisprudence, as is, perhaps, to be any where met with. One Gallius was then the governor; and Paul was accused before him, by some of the Jews, as a promulgator of heretical doctrines. "If the matter of which you accuse Paul," said Gallius, "were immoral, he might be punished; but, as it is only opinions, I have nothing to do with it:" and he pushed them away from before the tribunal of justice.

The want of horses at the post-house, and some other little accidental delays, kept us at Corinth till the afternoon. We expected still, however, to have been able to reach Megara the same night. In passing the Isthmus, we were greatly surprized by devastations, that appeared to have been made by fire, in the woods: those woods where Sinis is said to have tied unfortunate travellers to bended pines, which he suddenly liberated, and tore the victims into pieces.

When we reached the Dervent, it was more than an hour past sunset. We, therefore, resolved, in consequence of the fracas at Argos and Corinth, rather to remain in the khan there, than to occasion similar disturbances at Megara. One of the men had occasion to rouse the captain of the guard, (for the Dervent is a sort of fortified custom-house,) who inquired what we were: I recognized him to be the same that had charge of the post when I happened to pass the road in the course of a former journey. Making myself known, after some persuasion, he admitted us; and we obtained, in consequence, a much better room than would have been found at Megara.

At break of day, we were again mounted. Being now on the fabulous land of Greece, and passing through delightful scenery, our ride to Athens was the most agreeable that we had yet enjoyed. We took some refreshment at Megara; and, while the horses were baiting, walked round the town, to see the antiquities, which consist of a few inscriptions, and statues, headless and limbless, and almost all shapeless. If we had not the satisfaction to hear the stones

of the walls yielding those harmonious sounds which they imbibed from the lyre of Apollo, we had the pleasure of seeing a number of very pretty Greek girls, dancing to their own singing.

In travelling to Megara from Lipsina, the ancient Eleusis, there is one part of the road which turns round a steep promontory; probably, the precipice of Chelone, where the Sciron used to make the passengers wash his feet, and, while they were doing it, monstrously kicked them into the sea. On the temple of the Winds, at Athens, one of the personifications is called Sciron; I think it is the North-west, which is particularly obnoxious to the Athenians. The alledged caprice of the monster, in kicking down the passengers, I am, therefore, inclined to think, has originated from the violent and sudden gusts with which this wind blows round the promontory. The waves are, probably, the travellers; for, in their passage at this place, the sudden burst of wind breaks their regularity, and drives them out, in the form of sprays, into the sea.

Eleusis is so celebrated a place, and the remains of the temples still indicate so much magnificence, that it deserved more attention than we felt ourselves in the humour to bestow. The story of Ceres, and her daughter Proserpine, stripped of those ornaments, with which the poets have entirely concealed the allegory, has so often been attempted to be analyzed, that I ought not to imagine that I shall succeed in throwing any light on the subject, having already made an attempt, when I was speaking of Etna.

Regarding Ceres as cultivation personified, Proserpine may also be regarded as the personification of grain, and Pluto as that of fire. The rape will then be emblematic of the baking of bread, or of kiln-

drying the grain. The grief of the goddess may have reference to a famine, in which all the corn had been consumed; and her wandering, in quest of her daughter, an allegory of a search for new seed. The boon granted to Ceres by Jupiter, that Proserpine should spend one half of the year in Heaven, and the other in Hell, has, according to these notions, reference to the dormant state, and the growth, of the grain*. Jupiter himself is, by some, considered as the personification of the air.

Nothing remarkable excited our imaginations in passing from Lipsina to Athens. The view of Salamis suggested to consideration, the active prudence of the bustling Themistocles, and the circumstances of the Persian defeat. The history of the invasion of Greece, by Xerxes, affords many interesting traits of that curious mixture of savage simplicity and civilized wisdom, which distinguish the character of the ancients from that of the moderns. The commanders, in many respects, acted like boys, and a degree of juvenility pervades the narrative of the historians. Though time may not have augmented the talents of the world since the days of Xerxes, it has modified the notions of mankind; and taught us to slight, as deficient in propriety, many things which, in that age, would have been regarded as honourable and great. The French, who have the least

* The Greek word ἀΐδης, or, as written by Homer, αϊδης, signifies, obscure, hidden, i. e. *buried*. The English word *hell* has, primarily, the same signification. In some parts of England, to *hele* over a thing, is to cover it. See any of the Lexicons. Is not the verb to *hide* a derivation from Homer's αϊδης?

originality of any nation*, are the greatest apers of classic customs, and the dread of their power secures a grave audience to their frets and struts; but the general sense of mankind despises their extravagance. The ranting tragedy of the Revolution, and the solemn farce of the Emperor, are exhibitions equally offensive to good taste. Transactions, whether of nations or of individuals, which would, in a fictitious literary narrative, be regarded as extravagant incidents, are all either the result of delirium or of affectation.

What, in the ancients, was the result of early simplicity, is, in the French, ridiculous art. The insanity of the most distinguished

The presumption of the French, in speaking of the British as a nation not remarkably inventive, is exceedingly diverting. Almost all the greatest additions which the moderns have made to the faculties, the knowledge, the comfort, and the power of man, are of British origin; while there is not one discovery, or invention, of primary consequence, to which the French can lay claim. The art of philosophizing; the demonstration of the system of the universe; the invention of logarithms; the discovery of the gases in chymistry; of the metallization of the earths and alkalis; of gunpowder; of the steam-engine; and the invention of Hadley's quadrant;—are all of British origin. The telegraph was first proposed as a machine for communication by an Englishman. The vaccine inoculation is British. Nor less beneficial, perhaps, to mankind, was the introduction of the potatoe. In jurisprudence we stand alone, as the inventors of the trial by jury. In legislature, our representative system had no precedent. The establishing of judges, independent of the controul of government, is unknown but in our land. Spinning and weaving by machinery; the circular and the spherical saws; are inventions of the British. But why extend the catalogue? For, what have the French discovered, contrived, or introduced among mankind, to compare with the least of these?

bedlamites of the Thuilleries, may be traced to Plutarch, who has had always more influence on the continent than among us. In French biography, he appears to be as indispensable to the mind, as fathers and mothers are to children.

Salamis is famous as the cradle of Solon and the grave of Demosthenes. The character of the law-giver is one of the few that may be studied without danger; and there are circumstances in the life of the orator, that have never been adjusted in a satisfactory manner. Though the laws of Solon no longer exist, in that particular form in which they were delivered to the Athenians, yet the principles developed in them continue to affect the happiness of mankind. They were the precursors, if not the elements, of that general system of jurisprudence, which has been inherited from the Romans, and which, throughout Europe, constitutes the public law of almost every state. Solon may, therefore, be esteemed as one of the Great, although it is only those men whose works immediately affect posterity, that are, properly, entitled to this honour.

The most doubtful circumstance in the life of Demosthenes, is the conduct ascribed to him at the battle of Chæronea. He was charged by his enemies with having shewn a dastardly spirit on that occasion; and yet it appears that, immediately after the battle, he was called, by the public, to the most important of all trusts. The dismay which he is said to have manifested in advancing to the charge, may be as justly ascribed to his distrust of the other generals, as to pusillanimity in himself. It should be remembered, that they were defeated; and that, immediately after the battle, the people acquiesced in all the precautionary measures which he recommended

for the defence of the town. The accusation, of being bribed by Harpalus, is still more improbable. He was one of the orators who urged the prosecution of the corrupted; and, although he did not speak at their trial, excusing himself on account of indisposition, it does not follow that he also had been corrupted. Besides, when he was recalled from his exile for this problematic treason, the people, who are always sufficiently prone to believe the corruptibility of public ministers, met him with acclamations of joy; and, in order that he might indemnify himself for the fine which he had been obliged to pay, they elected him superintendant of the public festivals. In this they acted magnanimously. Rather than violate the decision of the judicature, or allow Demosthenes to remain impoverished, they chose to submit to an abridgement of their own pleasure.

From Lipsina to Athens, the road, for several miles, lies along the shore, passing two small lakes on the left, the streams from which serve to turn two mills. At present, there are no rivers in the Eleusinian plain; and I suspect, that the issues of the two mill-ponds are no less than the renowned streams of the Rhiti. The plain is about seven or eight miles in length, and, from the foot of the hills to the sea, about three in breadth. Though sparely cultivated, it appears to be fertile. The peasants are Greeks and Albanians, and they have the reputation of being primitively honest and industrious. Not a robbery has been committed within their district, in the course of many years; and the road, at all times, may be travelled in perfect security.

After passing the second mill, the road is conducted along the foot of the mountains, on the edge of the sea, and still retains some

traces of having been partly excavated, and partly built. Where it turns into a hollow between the hills, we observed a fluted marble column lying in a box, one of the remains of Grecian art of which Lord Elgin took possession. In this valley, at the foot of a hill covered with pines, stands the monastery of Daphne, a picturesque edifice, fast verging into that uninhabitable condition, which excites the admiration of painters. Near the gate there is a well of excellent water; and, on the rising ground, we saw an ancient sepulchre, which had only been recently opened. From the monastery, the level country gradually expands, and a fertile and extensive prospect opens in front, till the top of mount Hymettus is seen. The Acropolis of Athens is soon after discovered, on which the eye of the traveller rests with avidity, until the temple of Theseus appears. A variety of indistinct and miscellaneous objects then press upon the attention; and the sentiments which the first view of Athens inspires, are nourished by the solemnity of the groves of olives, under the shade of which the road presently passes.

The sun was setting on the ruins of this famous city, when we came in sight of the Acropolis; and, before we reached the Roman propaganda monastery, it was dark. I lodged in this house during my first visit to Athens, and the friar received me again as an old friend. The news of travellers having arrived, brought inquirers to the gate; for, as of old, "all the Athenians, and strangers there, spend their time in nothing else, but either to tell or to hear some new thing."

As I expect to have an opportunity of laying before the public the particular observations which I made on the antiquities of Athens

during my first voyage to Greece, I shall abstain from taking any farther notice of them at present, than merely what cursorily occurred to my mind.

I cannot describe the modern city of Athens in fewer words, than by saying that it looks as if three or four villages had been rudely swept together, at the foot of the north side of the Acropolis, and inclosed within a garden wall, between three or four miles in circumference. The buildings occupy about four-fifths of this inclosure; the remainder consists of corn fields and gardens.

The common estimate of the population of Athens is ten thousand souls; and it appears not to be far from the truth: and yet the city contains no less than thirty-nine parochial churches, besides the metropolitan, and upwards of eighty chapels. The metropolitan is sometimes spoken of as a parish church, and it is usual to say, in consequence, that the town is divided into forty parishes.

Athens is the seat of an archbishop, whose jurisdiction comprehends all on the east side of Salona, as far as Zeitun, and extends to Cape Colonna.

The famous University of Athens has dwindled into two pitiful schools, where classic Greek is professedly taught. The students are few, and their proficiency is small. Degrees are not conferred, and no literary honours are now known in Athens. There are several private schools; and the Athenians can, generally, read and write. The friar, in the Roman propaganda convent, instructs the children of the Catholics in the Italian language. Few of the Greeks can afford to allow their children to advance beyond the mere rudiments of instruction; and books are not to be purchased here.

In Athens, there are eleven places of Mahomedan worship. The Turks have also three public schools, where their youth receive a slender species of education.

Adjoining to the parish churches are several small houses, which are granted, free, by the bishop, to helpless women. Infirm old men retire to the monasteries, of which there are a great many in the territory of Attica.

When I went to see the Piræus, there happened to be only two vessels in it. One destined to receive part of the spoils of the Parthenon; the other was delivering a cargo of human beings from the coast of Africa. The only trade at the Piræus, besides the little done in the human commodity, is the exportation of the productions of the Athenian territory; of which about thirty-five thousand barrels of oil are annually shipped by the French merchants settled here, and from forty to fifty tons of madder roots. The oil is good; but the madder is inferior to that of Smyrna. A small quantity of nitre is also prepared in Athens. Considering the improvement which has taken place in the neighbouring islands, and particularly in Egina, it is probable that the Piræus may again become a frequented port. There is a little cotton raised in Attica; but the ground is so carelessly tilled, that the grain harvest rarely affords much for exportation.

The temple of Jupiter Olympus, which was the largest fabric in Athens, presents now only a few columns; but they are of such majestic proportions, that they form a very impressive spectacle. No just notion of the figure or extent of the building can be conceived from them; but this obscurity, especially as they are seen

standing in an open field, unobstructed with rubbish, enhances the interest and the solemnity of their effect. The Turks, and the baser Greeks, are in the practice of breaking down and burning the marbles of the ancients, in order to make mortar. Owing to this, all the rest of the hundred and twenty pillars of which this gorgeous edifice consisted, have entirely vanished away.

The temple of Minerva, with the other buildings in the Acropolis, are the most celebrated of all the Athenian edifices. In point of influence on the imagination, all the elaborate sculptures of the Parthenon, the Erectheum, the Pandroséum, and the Propylia, fall infinitely short of the ivied cloisters of a monastery, or the ruder masses of a feudal castle. Artists may here find models; but the cursory traveller, who expects to be awed by the venerable aspect of ruin, will wonder at the apathy of his own feelings. He must become a student, in order to appreciate the excellence of the Grecian sculpture.

Minerva, among the ancient Athenians, possessed nearly the same kind of pre-eminence, which the modern allow to the Virgin Mary. The worship of the Parthenia and the Panagia, differ only in ritual. Minerva is considered, by the mythologists, as the personification of the divine wisdom; and the fable of her issuing perfect from the head of Jupiter, they say, is descriptive of this notion. I have somewhere read, that one of her statues or temples bore an inscription which implied this opinion. Her contest with Neptune, for the wardenship of the city, is a very pretty allegory. The rival deities referred their respective pretensions to the twelve great gods, who decided, that the wardenship should be given to the one that

produced the most useful thing to the citizens. Neptune instantly created the horse; and Minerva raised the olive. By the horse, navigation is hieroglyphically represented; ships are, also, often figuratively described as horses. The olive, which furnishes at once the means of light, food, and cleanliness, was preferred. This fable is but an account of an ancient dispute among the inhabitants of the city of Cecrops, whether they ought to devote themselves to maritime affairs, or to the cultivation of the soil. The question being referred to the twelve judges of the Areopagus, they decided in favour of the latter. The people, in consequence, preferred Minerva to Neptune.

The temple of Theseus is the next object of admiration. It is an elegant Doric oblong columnar building, with a pediment of six pillars at each end. It has suffered less from time, or antiquaries, more destructive than time, than any other edifice in Athens. From the ornaments, it appears to have been dedicated to Hercules as well as to Theseus. The workmanship and architecture afford a favourable specimen of the state of the arts in the time of Pericles, by whose orders, I believe, this temple was raised.

The character of Pericles had more magnificence about it than that of almost any of the Athenians. He possessed a powerful and commanding eloquence, and there was a generous ambition in his projects and actions, that makes him stand, in our imagination, more like a Roman than a Greek. Plutarch ascribes to him an intention of connecting the states of Greece under one head, in order to form a representative republic, of which Athens should be the capital. His great rival was Cimon, who courted popularity, like a candidate for our parliament, canvassing before an election. He clothed and fed

the poor, lent money to the needy gentry, laid out gardens for the gay, and built porticos for the indolent. Pericles; on the contrary, endeavoured to adorn the state, and to ennoble the sentiments of his countrymen. The temporary selfish expedients of Cimon have perished; but the remains of the structures of Pericles attract travellers, from the remotest lands, to Athens, even at this day. Cimon is said to have been the first who planned conversational porticos. On this account, his statue should be placed in tea-gardens and coffee-houses; for the gardens and porticos of the ancients were exactly places of that kind.

Next in rank, perhaps superior in beauty, is the monument of Lysicrates, adjoining to the monastery in which we lodged. It is generally known by the ridiculous name of the Lantern of Demosthenes, given to it by some ignorant Greek Cicerone, who, probably, heard of Diogenes and his lantern, and confounded the orator with the cynic. Diogenes had, certainly, a very correct opinion of the Athenians, of whom it may be said, that, by their ostracism, they punished virtue as other nations do vice. The monument of Lysicrates is a circular building, of the Corinthian order, about six feet in diameter. The frize is ornamented with bas reliefs, representing the story of Bacchus and the Tyrrhenian pirates. It was built about three hundred and thirty years before the Christian æra, in order to commemorate a triumph which had been gained in the theatre by a chorus of boys. In that age, it was fashionable, among the opulent Athenians, at their own expence, to entertain the public with theatrical exhibitions, and prizes were adjudged to those who excelled. It is, therefore, probable, that Lysicrates had given an entertainment

of this kind, and had obtained the prize by the singing-boys who appeared in the spectacle, which, from the decorations on the monument, doubtless referred to the atchievements of Bacchus. Themistocles gave an entertainment of this kind; and the inscription he erected, to commemorate the applause which he had obtained, recorded, that the tragedy, represented at his expence, was composed by Phrynichus, and got up by Adimantus.

Our ideas of the splendour of the antient nations are, for the most part, exceedingly erroneous, chiefly owing, I conceive, to their being derived from descriptions of temples and palaces; words which, of themselves, always charm up a number of gorgeous and unreal fancies. A painter, in giving a view of any occurrence which took place in the streets of ancient Athens, would be regarded as a man of a niggardly imagination, if he attempted to delineate the appearance of the town with historical fidelity. De Pauw, in his philosophical researches, informs us, on the authority of Aristotle, that the streets were narrow, obstructed with stairs, and the air darkened and confined by overhanging balconies. The houses were constructed with timber; and, from the general poverty of the community, we have no reason to imagine that they exhibited any extraordinary elegance of interior arrangement. Were we to judge of the domestic mansions of the English by the cathedrals and the remains of Popish grandeur, we should conclude that the country has greatly declined in magnificence.

The temple of the Winds is still one of the principal curiosities which travellers visit; not, however, on account of its architectural beauty, for little of that can be seen, but as the mosch in which the

dancing dervishes exhibit their penitentiary gesticulations. When we went to see this performance, we found preparations made for Lady Hester Stanhope, to be a spectator, as well as for the other British travellers; a circumstance which shews the relaxed temper of Mahomedan bigotry.

The ceremony began by a number of young and old Turks seating themselves in a circle, the chief priest on the one side, and, opposite to him, on the other, three men, each with a small kettle-drum, which was beat with a short stick, as the worshipers bent and bowed backward and forward, repeating ejaculations. When this had continued about twenty minutes, they all rose, and, forming a ring, with their arms round each other's necks, slowly moved in a kind of hitching measure, the drums regulating their steps, and timing their exclamations. Their devotion growing more fervent, two sprung from the circle, and, entwining their arms together, began to whirl about with an increasing velocity, till they emulated the swiftness of the fly of a roasting-jack. Their rapidity inflamed the energy of the others, till the whole, pressing to the centre, formed a solid mass, heaving and sounding. The first and cooler parts of the ceremony were irresistibly laughable; and, notwithstanding our utmost efforts to the contrary, not one of the spectators could maintain their gravity: but, as the passion of the penitentials warmed, the ludicrous impressions abated, and once or twice my ear was struck with a few pathetic accents. I could not, however, but remark two performers, evidently mere actors. One of them was a fat fellow, who seemed to have cherished the growth of his hair, in order that, when flying dishevelled as he whirled, it

might make the finer shew. The other was a dainty looking body, who dandled himself so prettily in the dance, that it was as impossible to believe that he did not think of the figure he was making, as to look at him with a grave face. We remained about an hour in the Temple, and, when we left it, the dancers were not tired.

Passing from the height on which the court of the Areopagus was held, and of which the form of seats and steps, cut out of the solid rock, still remain, travellers, before ascending the Museum-hill, are conducted to see two small excavated chambers, said to have been the prison where Socrates was confined, and died. The death of this philosopher is justly held one of the greatest stains on the character of the ancient Athenians. But the sin is of daily occurrence. The opinions which Socrates inculcated were at variance with the existing institutions of the nation; and, to attack subversively what the laws hallow and support, whether good or bad, will ever be a political offence. Persecution is the natural re-action of reformation. Reformers should consider the martyrdom to which they expose themselves as part of the means by which the establishment of their doctrines is to be accomplished.

Philosophers profess, in their very title, not only to tolerate the opinions of others, but to consider discussion as the right and privilege of man; and it is commonly thought, that only statesmen and ecclesiastics yield to the instigations of bigotry. The bringing of the Apostle Paul, however, before the tribunal that condemned Socrates, is a proof that there is something in the spirit of incorporation which destroys the very principle of philosophy. For Paul was not persecuted at Athens by the clergy, who had their emoluments and im-

munities put to hazard by the promulgation of his doctrines, nor by the magistrates, who were bound to protect the priesthood in their possessions and enjoyments, but by the Stoics and Epicureans, who called themselves lovers of truth. They accused him as a setter forth of new opinions; and, because they could not refute, they endeavoured to destroy.

But the philosophers themselves were, in the end, destined to suffer the retribution due to their intolerance. Athens, in the third century after the preaching of Paul, was sacked by the Goths; and it was proposed to the General to burn the libraries. "No," said he, "let us spare the books; for, as long as the Greeks are devoted to them, they will not trouble us as soldiers." The contemptuous liberality of the barbarian was followed, in the sixth century, by the suppression of the philosophical schools.

From that period a long oblivious blank of seven hundred unmarked and uninteresting years is found in the Athenian history.

After the taking of Constantinople, by the Marquis of Monserrat, in the year 1204, the territory of Athens and Thebes, united, were erected into a dukedom, and given to Otho de la Roche, a nobleman of Burgundy, who had followed the standard of the Marquis. It remained in his family during the life-time of his son, and two grandsons. After their death, the ducal sovereignty was transferred to the French family of Briennes, by the marriage of the heiress to the elder branch of that race.

Walter de Brienne, the son of this marriage, succeeded to the dutchy of Athens, and reduced above thirty of the neighbouring petty lords to his vassalage. In his time the Catalans, who, under

the name of the great company, had terrified the inhabitants of Constantinople, retiring from Thrace, passed through Macedonia into Thessaly. Walter de Brienne, alarmed by their approach, and the rumour of their devastations, prepared an army; and advanced against them to the banks of the Kephissus with seven hundred knights, six thousand four hundred cavalry, and eight thousand infantry; a force equal in number to the greatest efforts of the Athenian republic in the best days of its glory. The Catalans amounted only to three thousand cavalry, and four thousand infantry; but, notwithstanding the inferiority of their number, they so surprized him by stratagems, and assaulted him with their weapons, that his army was completely routed, and himself slain. Then, taking the city, they expelled his family.

His son, the titular duke of Athens, constable of France, fell, not long after, in the memorable battle of Poictiers. The Catalans married themselves to the wives and daughters of the slain; and, for fourteen years, under their sway, Athens was once more the terror of all Greece. Falling into factious divisions, in order to allay the consequent turbulences, they were induced to acknowledge the sovereignty of the house of Arragon; and, during the fourteenth century, Attica was a province of the kings of Sicily, by whom it was bestowed on the Acciaoli, a family of Florentine extraction.

By the Acciaoli, Athens regained a faint but ineffectual lustre. They embellished her with new edifices, and she became the capital of a state whose jurisdiction extended over Thebes, Argos, Corinth, Delphi, and a part of Thessaly. In 1456, this temporary glory and independence was destroyed by Mahomet the Second, who strangled

the last of the dukes, and educated his children in the religion and discipline of the seraglio. About the middle of the last century, the Athenians obtained for their superior the chief eunuch of Constantinople; and, since that time, it continues to be governed by a Turk, who farms the revenue from that officer, and by eight primates, distinguished for their empty pride and sinister principles. The remains of its antient splendour are still objects of admiration; and it will, probably, long be venerated as a sacred shrine, to which the votaries of science and knowledge make occasional pilgrimage.

MARATHON.

After resting a week at Athens, I grew anxious to resume my journey, and we bade it adieu. Our road lay along the west side of Mount Pentilicus; and we saw, at a distance, in passing, the ruins of an aqueduct.

Soon after, we entered a small shaggy plain, on which the remains of several mean buildings may be discovered; but nothing appeared worth the trouble of stopping our horses to examine. The road, after turning behind Mount Pentilicus, lay, for some time, through a beautiful sylvan hollow; from which, winding by a steep ascent, it led us to the heights which overlook the valley and village of Marathon.

It was our intention to have rested for the night at this celebrated spot, conceiving that the field of battle must have been near it; but our information was incorrect. After making some inquiries, we proceeded down the dry channel of the Asopus to a small hamlet near the outlet of the passage which leads from the valley to the plain.

In the hamlet we bespoke lodgings for the night, and rode to the large barrow on the shore, where the slaughter of the Persians took place.

The plain of Marathon lies between the bottom of the mountains and the sea; and, in the broadest part, may be about three English miles. It is not easy to imagine a finer situation for the debarkation of troops. A long flat beach extends, for many miles, and the water, to the mark, is sufficiently deep to allow the close approach of those kind of boats which are usually employed in such service. On the right, the hills, rising abruptly, extend, in various forms, to Cape Colonna; and, on the left, the loftier mountains of the Negropont seem to balance the hills of Attica. We saw, in front, the blue and distant isles of the Cyclades, visible by the setting sun.

The victory of Marathon, from the accident of being early impressed on the mind, by the course of education, as one of the most splendid events in history, has acquired a moral effect, greater, perhaps, than the change that might have taken place, had the Persians been successful. The Athenians, innately prone to exaggeration, having completed this illustrious achievement, by their own means, represented it, on all occasions, as a victory which had saved Greece; and the classical student, embracing their sentiments, exalts it into one of those epochal events which influence the fate of mankind. But, when the condition of the neighbouring states is considered, particularly that of Sparta, the victory of Marathon does not appear to have been an event of so much importance. The institutions of Lycurgus were then flourishing in full vigour; and, in the subsequent invasion by Xerxes, we find, after Athens had

been taken, that the spirit of Greece was neither intimidated, nor her strength essentially impaired.

When Swift contrasted the rewards which the British nation bestowed on the duke of Marlborough with those which the Romans gave to their generals, he might have adverted to the recompence which Miltiades received, from the Athenians, after gaining the battle of Marathon. In reward for that immortal achievement, they requested him to sit for his picture to Polygnotus the painter; and, afterwards, when he happened not to be successful in another enterprise, they flung him into prison, where he died of his wounds. Who can wonder, that Isocrates, the orator, was ten years in writing a panegyric on this people!

It was dusk when we returned to the hamlet. We found, in the cottage, in which we had bespoke room for the night, a supper ready, that would have done honour to a better mansion. The inhabitants of Bey, (for that was the name of the place,) were Albanian farmers: a small colony, settled by a Turk, who built their houses, in order to facilitate the cultivation of the plain. It is so rare a thing to hear of the professors of the Mahomedan faith embarking in undertakings of this kind, that I regret exceedingly having omitted to inquire the name of so singular a person as the founder of Bey; a place which, in time, by the advantages of its situation, may become opulent and famous.

DRAMIS.

In the morning, we retraced our steps in the Asopus; and, passing through Marathon, continued our route, still in the channel of

the dried river. After riding several miles, we arrived in sight of a rural village, pleasantly situated on the swell of a rising ground. The cottages were covered with bright red tiles, and their walls neatly whitewashed; the inclosures, and surrounding vineyards, were all in good order; and a decent church stood, in an open field, at a little distance from the town. Our guide, being doubtful of the way, went to the village to inquire. He was long of returning, and we rode to its skirts, in order to hasten him. As we approached, we were surprized at not hearing the stir of a living creature; and yet, there was no appearance of waste or desolation. The guide, returning, informed us that the village had, the week before, been deserted by all its inhabitants, except one old woman, who, having no kindred to follow, chose to remain alone. The people had fled, with their cattle and money, to avoid an impost, beyond all their means of payment, which had been levied by Ali Pashaw. Not aware that the jurisdiction of this inflexible potentate had extended so far, we inquired how he had happened to attack this village; but were only informed, that he thought the inhabitants could pay. Leaving this melancholy monument of extortion, we turned into a dingle, where the path was frequently interrupted by underwood. The bushes, as we advanced, gradually approximated to the size of trees; and, when we had got out of the hollow, we found ourselves in a forest, the open glades of which presented occasional views, that rivalled, in beauty, the prospects of an English park. The whole country here is, naturally, exceedingly beautiful; but the almost total solitude that prevails, had the effect, after the impression made on our minds by the Auburn of Attica, of rendering the ride very cheerless. Ascend-

ing from the woody vale, our road lay along the brows of the hills; from which we saw extensive tracts of the forest which had been desolated by fire, in order, as we were told, to destroy the wolves, by which it is infested. It was sunset when we discovered the fortress of Carrababa, at such a distance, that we resolved to remain, for the night, at Dramis, a small village on the shore. It had, also, been, in a great measure, deserted. Only one Greek family remained; by whom we were admitted, and treated with their best means. It would have been an insult to human kindness, after what we had seen and heard, to have grumbled at far inferior accommodations and fare.

NEGROPONT.

At break of day, we mounted our horses. The opposite shore of Eubea seemed to be well planted with olives, and respectably cultivated. The town of Negropont, which gives the name now to the whole island, is situated on a point of land, projecting towards the coast of Bœotia, to which it is connected by a bridge. The strait is here so narrow, as to serve as a ditch to the fortifications. The water on the north side of the bridge, is the chief resort of the few small vessels that trade with the town. On the south side, there is a fine land-locked natural bason, which communicates with the outer harbour, by a passage, perhaps not more than two hundred yards wide. The outer harbour is formed by two low points of land, projecting from the continent and the island. On the end of the insular point, a small white castle is placed,—the beacon and the sentinel of the port. The appearance of the city and fortifications, as we passed

below the walls of the fortress of Carrababa, is pretty and inviting; but, like every thing else in Turkey, the distant view is the best.

As we crossed the bridge, the water was running to the southward. The irregularity of the flux and reflux of the sea here, has, from time immemorial, been regarded as a great curiosity. We were, therefore, particular in our inquiries, in order to ascertain if the phenomenon could be explained by any local circumstance. The flow, we were told, is, in serene weather, as regularly alternate from the north to the south, and from the south to the north, as the tides of the ocean; but, during winter, and storms, the alternation is disturbed and various, owing to the effect which the wind has on the waters of the narrow straits between the island and the continent.

The fortifications of Negropont were constructed by the Venetians, and the arms of that state are still seen above one of the gates. They were, in their day, considered of great strength; but the Turkish fortress of Carrababa so completely commands them, that they must always be resigned to the masters of it. The town is dirty and miserable. The population does not exceed five thousand souls. The climate is unwholesome, and is often visited by pestilence. The number of tombs and cemeteries around, mark the *Black Bridge* as a place particularly noxious to life. Nor are the inhabitants more benevolent than their climate. They have the character of being the worst Turks in Europe, regardless alike of the property and blood of the wretches subjected to their caprice and cruelty.

Not long before our arrival, a most detestable occurrence had taken place; the circumstances of which serve to illustrate the state of society and of the judicature in Negropont. A beautiful girl, who

had acquired many accomplishments superior to the rest of her sex in Turkey, attracted the desires of a young Turk, who bribed her servant to decoy her to a sequestered place in the fortifications. Without any of those preliminary blandishments with which more refined seducers palliate their guilt to the victims, he gratified himself, and then murdered her. The servant assisted him to dig her grave. After several days of general concern and anxiety, a labourer discovered her feet above the earth. The criminals were suspected and seized, but were soon after liberated. For the Pashaw, although the poor girl had, from her infancy, delighted him with her genius, commuted the punishment for a bribe. From the affections of a barbarian better justice might have been expected. But here crimes and deaths are so common, that they have ceased to produce their natural impression on the human heart. We only halted to breakfast, feeling no inclination to stay, without a firman, in a town where the greatest curiosities were the fields of the dead, and the most interesting information was the atrocities of the last crime.

In Eubea there are fine forests of oak, and large quantities of sumack may be collected. The valleys are well cultivated, and it exports several cargoes of grain.

THEBES.

After riding leisurely over the heights that overlook the straits of the Negropont, we descended upon a spacious treeless plain, across which the road lies to Thebes. It was two hours after sunset before we arrived. The ramazan having commenced, during

which it is the custom of the Turks to illuminate the moschs and the tops of the minerets, the distant view of the town was showy and cheerful; but we had scarcely passed the contemptible channels of the Ismenus or the Dirce, when we found all the usual circumstances of the ruination and squalor that characterize the effects of Ottoman rule. Of the ancient walls of the city there are no traces. The remains of two towers, and a square castle, garrisoned by rooks, give some degree of dignity to the features of the town; but the masonry is rude, and evidently of no great antiquity.

The story of Thebes is less splendid than that of Athens. Except Epaminondas and Pindar, she has produced no character who ranks very highly among the illustrious offspring of Greece. Of the genius and endowments of Pindar we have still the means of judging. Many ages have elapsed since his death, and yet he is still the greatest poet of his class. Of Epaminondas we have only the imperfect report of others; but that report is so consistent, that, even under the full conviction of the unauthentic nature of Grecian biography, as well as history, it cannot but be entitled to some degree of credit. His resolution to retain the command of the army, contrary to the express laws of the state, is the most magnanimous incident in his memoirs. As an officer is bound to hazard his life in the service of his country, I think, under difficult circumstances, he may be justified in violating his orders. But, even if successful, he ought not to escape without censure. The enemies of Epaminondas, it is said, contrived, as a mortification, that he should be elected the city scavenger; but he defeated their malice, by accepting the office with a good grace, and by performing the duty with unprecedented advantage to the public. When a British admiral was, some years

ago, made a lord of the bedchamber, the appointment was not ascribed to his enemies.

The probable history of Thebes is not voluminous; but the fabulous equals, in extent, that of any other state of Greece. Bacchus is said, by the mythologists, to have been born in this city; but, when the circumstances of his achievements are taken into view, Egyptian Thebes seems better entitled to the honour. The Greeks were in the practice of adopting the heroes of other countries, and of setting them up for gods; and, in this instance, it has been thought that Bacchus was no other than Moses. One of his names is stated in corroboration of this opinion. He was called Misas, because he had been saved by water; and the name of the Hebrew law-giver, which so nearly resembles it, had a similar origin. Nisa is the name of the mountain on which the god was educated; and, the author of the Venetian, "Cognizione della Mitologia" remarks, that it is only the anagram of Sinai. Bacchus, also, invaded India, with a great multitude of men, women, and children; and, it is perfectly ascertained, that the Greeks, by India, only meant that part of Asia which we call Palestine.

The feasts of Bacchus, after the vintage, were celebrated with jollity and junketings, like the diversions of an English wake. But the orgies of the priestesses were more esteemed solemnities, and the god frequently vouchsafed to manifest his especial influence, during their celebration. Penteus, of Thebes, having prohibited the orgies, his mother was inspired, by the god, with such fury against him, that she tore him into pieces. The prince, I imagine, ashamed of the extravagances which she was in the practice of committing, during the festivals, had suspended them on that account;

and she, afterwards, happening to be in liquor, destroyed him in revenge.

The hideous story of Œdipus naturally presents itself to remembrance, in passing through Bœotia. It is remarkable that such a disgusting subject should have so often been chosen by the tragic poets. For, notwithstanding the dismal magnificence of the prodigies, the horror, which it inspires, arises more from the nature of the incidents than from any skill, or poetry, that can be employed in the management. The whole subject of Œdipus is repugnant to good taste, because it is founded on unnatural circumstances.

Thebes was preparing, while we were there, for the exhibition of a tragedy less atrocious. The inhabitants having privately accused the governor of oppressing them, by extortions, beyond endurance, the sultan had appointed the governor of Athens to investigate the charge. A few days before our arrival, a proclamation had been made, throughout the district, that all who had matter of complaint should come and state their grievances; and the government house, when we paid our visit, was thronged with peasants, pressing to give vent to their indignation. This proceeding serves to shew, that the Greeks, if they set properly about the representation of complaints, are not so destitute of protection as they are generally supposed to be. The circumspection and steadiness, with which the examination was conducted, afforded a favourable specimen of Turkish judicature.

The territory of Thebes is fertile, and the grain harvest affords a considerable surplus for exportation. Two or three small cargoes of rosin are also shipped; and, annually, several larger vessels are

loaded with timber, at Negropont and Megara, the two ports where the productions of Bœotia are embarked.

It would be unpardonable to omit mentioning, that Thebes possesses the distinguished wonder of a public clock. It was brought, about fifty years ago, from Venice to Negropont, where an opulent Theban Turk, happening to hear it strike, was so pleased with its sagacity, that he bought it, and built a tower for it here. As in the epochs of antiquity, public works are executed, in Greece, at the expence of individuals.

In this town, we observed a small manufactory of buttons and military instruments. The inhabitants wear the Albanian dress more commonly than in Attica.

LIVADIA.

We proceeded for the town of Livadia at eight o'clock in the morning. Riding leisurely along the arable treeless plain, which I have already mentioned, we arrived at a cavernous rock, on which a ruinous square tower is still conspicuous. Here we halted, to take some refreshment from our stores. Having remounted, we passed, in less than an hour, the fragments of an ancient city. The outline of the walls is visible; and, in several places, the sepulchres are sufficiently plain to excite the cupidity of a scafiating traveller. In the course of two hours more, we reached Livadia, the capital of a district of the same name, comprehending the greatest part of Bœotia. It stands on the steep slope of a rocky hill, divided by a rugged chasm, through which, in winter, a violent occasional torrent rages; and, all the year, from the cave of Trephonius, and adjacent springs, a

plentiful stream of delightful water continually flows. Before the town lies a beautiful verdant valley, watered by this stream; and behind, on a lofty, precipitous and craggy corner of the mountain, stand the towers and pinnacles of a castle in ruins.

The ancient Livadia stood at a considerable distance from the site of the modern. The existing town contains about five thousand inhabitants, who have grievously felt the oppressive sway of Ali Pashaw, of which the decaying aspects of their houses bear irrefutable testimony. Large quantities of the coarse shaggy cloth, of which the clothes of the peasantry are made, are brought here to be milled. The produce of the vicinity consists of wheat, Indian corn, cotton, and a sort of wine which is a disgrace to the country that pretends to the honour of having given birth to Bacchus.

CHÆRONEA.

Being detained, by the want of horses sufficient to enable us to proceed on our journey, we made an excursion to Chæronea, rendered famous by the battle which Philip, the father of Alexander, fought near it. The village consists of about half a dozen scattered cottages, and almost as many churches. The remains of a Grecian fortress, seen, on the top of a hill, which commands the plain, and the form of a theatre, excavated, at the bottom, with several broken marbles, on one of which we saw the name of Philip and a wreath of victory, are the monumental memorials of the city.

Having looked at the little that is to be seen at Chæronea, we went to Ocomenos, now called Scripou. But the many-peopled town of Homer exists no more. There are, however, a few relics of

its ancient splendour still visible; particularly the ruins of a great circular mausoleum, similar to those in the neighbourhood of Mycenæ; a mosaic pavement, of white and blue stones, prettily arranged; and, in the court of a monastery, built by one of the emperors, a number of inscriptions, fragments of cornices, and a collossal body of a warrior, tolerably well executed. The village of Scripou stands on the banks of the stream that rises at Livadia. The situation is low and humid; and, the day being dull, we participated in the drowsiness of fancy ascribed to the Bœotians.

PARNASSUS.

We left Livadia after breakfast; and, in the course of the afternoon, arrived at Castri, the ancient Delphi. Our ride, for nearly half the way, was through a valley, wild, romantic, and magnificent, till we reached Rakova, and its fertile environs of cotton fields and vineyards. From Rakova to Castri the road, ascending and descending, affords, at every turning, the finest views imaginable of savage scenery. Considering the impressions which the appearance of nature makes here, we could not but assent to the propriety of the ancients in regarding Parnassus as the peculiar region of the Muses.

The ruins of Delphi consist of mutilated inscriptions, extensive terraces, and a few fragments of pillars. It seems no longer possible, without scafiers, to discover the site of the great Temple of Apollo. It was, probably, where there is now a small monastery, in the midst of an olive-grove. In that neighbourhood the niches in the rocks, for votive offerings, are most numerous. It was, also, generally, the custom, after the establishment of Christianity, to

appropriate the old consecrated ground to the service of the new religion.

The Castalian spring still flows; and we enjoyed a draught, but without any effectual inspiration. A square bason, excavated in the rock from which it issues, is still almost entire. Two wild fig-trees overhang the source, and a drapery of ivy falls over a niche, and partly conceals a small chapel constructed in a hollow of the precipice. While we were standing near it, a goat approached, and cropped the herbs which grew at the root of the trees. The virtues of the fountain are said to have been first discovered by goats. A basket-maker also came to turn a bundle of osiers which were steeping in the bason, and crossed himself to the chapel or some of its contents. In a chasm above the spring, the traces of the stairs remain, by which the priests performed their pantomimes, to overawe the pilgrim as he knelt at the fountain to drink.

The scenery round Castri is solemn and grand. The village is overhung by lofty grey precipices; a recluse valley is seen, verdant and rural, far in the hollow below; and the western prospect, diversified by the gulph of Salona, comprehends a long remote range of the mountains of the Morea.

TURCO CORI.

We left Castri for the village of Turco Cori, which stands near the site of the ancient Elatia, having given up a previous intention of going to Salona and round the west side of the hill. On leaving Rakova, we saw a shepherd-boy playing on a flageolet, the only symptom of the influence of Apollo and the Muses that we had met

with; and we were followed by a crowd of beggars; but on Parnassus such a sight was not surprizing.

Keeping the mountain on our left, and gradually ascending a rising ground below the monastery of Jerusalem, which overlooks, towards the east, a great extent of country, we halted to water our horses at a small pool, which had been formed by the resort of cattle and travellers to the spring. Throughout Turkey, fountains are so common on the sides of the roads, that it was remarkable none should have been erected at this place. But the country is chiefly inhabited by Greeks, and the road is not often frequented by Turks. The Christians prefer building useless chapels, in the hope of future reward; and sneer at the Mahomedans, who, from the same motive, are induced to provide the refreshment of cool water for the dumb animal and the thirsty stranger.

From the pool to the village of Marianna the path is steep and rapid. When we had reached the bottom of the valley, the sun was on the edge of the horizon; and the effect of his slanting light on the alpine features of Parnassus produced an awful and stupendous effect. The mountain, towards Turco Cori, appears like a cairn, composed of hills instead of stones. The detached form of the ten principal peaks probably gave rise to the fable of the Muses and Apollo having made it their seat: and the solemnity produced on the mind, by the impression of the surrounding scenery, tended, no doubt, to sanction the fiction.

Having hired a Turk at Livadia to go with us as far as Salonika, he procured us a better apartment than we should otherwise have obtained. It was my wish to have travelled as independently as

possible; but a Mahomedan guide was now become necessary for the rest of our journey; we, therefore, adopted the custom of other travellers, and followed the common and beaten track. Our host here was a ludicrous specimen of Grecian pride and ignorance. He strutted about his little huxtry affairs in the military array of the Albanians, like a king in a tragedy, and looked upon us as inferior barbarians.

THERMOPYLÆ.

At day-break we took our departure for Zeitun. Our road lay across a range of lofty hills, from which we saw, at a distance, situated on the foot of Parnassus, the town of Dadi, a place of some fame, in these parts, for a manufactory of cotton canvass. The country round it appeared to be decently cultivated. But we were now in Thessaly, the vales of which are still, as anciently, more famous for their pastures than their harvests. From Turco Cori our ascent had been steep and toilsome. The road from the height gradually devolved into a deep, wild, and rugged pass, winding through a natural wood of trees and shrubbery. In the bottom of this glen there is a fountain, and a large tree, of ample shade, with a seat constructed round the trunk. We halted here. From a ruinous blackguard-looking house, situated on the cliff above, an Albanian came down, and demanded money. He belonged to a band of soldiers, appointed to guard the pass, and to extort money from the passengers. We resisted his demand; and, in consequence, were nearly immortalized in the pass of Thermopylæ; but, taking to flight, our Turk ended the war by paying eighteen pence, and joined us again at Molo,

where we breakfasted on salt fish stewed with onions, a coarse but savoury dish. We found here, at last, wine, in which there was no turpentine. Over all the continent of Greece, the wine is polluted with this unpalatable ingredient.

Mola is pleasantly situated on the west side of the gulf of Zeitun. The number of the inhabitants does not exceed two hundred. Some years ago, it was a much more respectable place; but the continued extortions of Ali Pashaw have compelled the people to emigrate.

Sending our baggage on before, we deviated from the main road, in order to see the hot spring *, near which, it is supposed, the famous band of Leonidas was posted. If it was in this neighbourhood, the features of the land must have since materially altered; for there is no longer any place capable of being defended in the way that it is described to have been. Still, however, the whereabout of an event which posterity still regards as the most illustrious example of patriotism and discipline can never be approached without emotion, nor consciously walked without the pleasure of magnanimous thought.

Returning to the great road, we crossed the river Alamana, by a handsome bridge, partly very ancient. One of the piers was built of white marble. We were told, by our guide, that there are two

* The hot springs in this part of the country gave rise to the name of Thermopylæ, *Thermia* signifying hot water, and *pyle* ground. In the island of Thermia, in the Archipelago, there are hot baths, similar in quality to the springs here. Those at Termini, in Sicily, are of the same kind. Termini is Thermia Italianized.

other bridges in the country, of a similar form, built by the architect who constructed this; and that, before he could make any of them able to withstand the force of the torrents, he was obliged to sacrifice a eunuch, and one of his own sisters, on each. In confirmation of this legendary tradition, we were shewn on the bridge a large slab, which he assured us was the tomb-stone of the victims!

ZEITUN.

Just as the tops of the minerets were lighted, we arrived in Zeitun, and found excellent lodgings in the house of a merchant engaged in the corn-trade of the country, and who was also a farmer of the tithes of several of the neighbouring villages.

The city stands on the side of a hill, at the entrance into a small vale at the head of the gulf; but at some distance from the shore. Being interspersed with gardens and cypress-trees, the general aspect of the place is pleasant. A ruinous fortress, on the top of the hill, gives it also an air of dignity. The population does not exceed six thousand souls. Some years ago, a new seraglio was built for the governor, at an expence of about twelve thousand pounds sterling; but it was scarcely finished, when a fire took place, and destroyed it entirely. There is here a trifling manufactory of cloth, and a considerable one of salt. The adjacent territory would be fertile; but the oppression which dismays the whole country renders it neglected, and almost desolate.

Zeitun is the capital of a district, the governor of which is connected, by marriage and interest, with the family of Ali Pashaw,

a daughter of Vilhi Pashaw being contracted to the nephew of the governor. It is, therefore, considered as a part of the territory of old Ali; and he directs the rule of it as such.

We discovered nothing of the ruins of the ancient Heraclea; but, in the walls of the castle, one very rude piece of sculpture, representing Chiron the Centaur, playing on the lyre to one of his pupils. This accomplished and benevolent monster was the son of Philira, for whom Saturn assumed the form of a horse. The Marquis of Sligo found at Athens a curious lamp, exhibiting their amour in bas relief. Chiron, in consequence of the shape that his father had taken, was biform, half man, half horse; but the Gods compensated this deformity by the excellent talents with which they endowed him. He was the first who instructed men in the benefits of judicature, the utility of oaths, and the efficacy of worship and sacrifice. Diana taught him the arts of the chace; and he was so skilful a musician, that he cured diseases by the melody of his lyre. He was also learned in divination, and taught Hercules astrology; in which science he was also the master of Esculapius, Jason, Castor, and Pollux, Achilles, and other heroes. One day, happening to meddle with the arrows of Hercules, dipped in the blood of the hydra of the Lernian lake, one of them chanced to fall on his hoof, and occasioned such insupportable pain, that he implored the Gods to deprive him of his immortality. Jupiter granted his prayer, and raised him into the Zodiac, where he became the sign Sagittarius.

A strange old character, a Septinsular physician, who had studied at Pisa, paid us a visit. By him we were informed that the air of Zeitun was unwholesome during the summer, owing to pestiferous

exhalations from the neighbouring marshes; and that the inhabitants were subject to putrid fevers, which he ascribed, however, as much to the grossness of their food, and an inordinate love of wine, as to the air.

PHERSELA.

We left Zeitun, with a special order from the governor to the different guards in the pass of Thaumacos, not to molest us for money; but, on the contrary, in case of any banditti being in the woods, or any deserters, from Vilhi Pashaw's army, on the roads, to see us safely conducted to the open country. We were now gaining fast on the rear of the army, which, as it moved on, was augmented by the junction of the vassal bands of the districts through which it passed. Conceiving that a Turkish army, from the inorganized materials of which it is composed, must be little better than a mob, we were surprized to find no marks of misdemeanors, but uniformly false the different accounts that we had received of spoliations and ravages committed on the march. The atrocities were always before us, flying as we advanced.

On leaving the pass, we entered an extensive plain country, surrounded with hills, and bounded, on the one side, by the lake Daodi. Keeping along the east side of the plain, we entered another narrow defile, from which we emerged upon the spacious plain of Pharsalia, at the bottom of the hill, on which the little town of Thaumacos is situated. Before entering on the plain, we halted at a khan, to take some refreshment from our stores. In the court, a poor man was lying, who, a few days before, had broken his thigh in three places,

by a fall from a horse. Two Greek priests came to visit him; and they informed us, that the surgeons of Thaumacos would not come to see him, because he could not pay them. How wretched must be their condition, when it was necessary to refuse an act of eminent humanity, in order to oblige the compassionate to bribe them! The poor man had, evidently, not long to live.

On the road across the plain of Pharsalia, we observed the track of wheels, which were, to us, like the print of the human foot to Robinson Crusoe. Soon after, we fell in with several waggons, drawn by oxen. Their construction was clumsy, and their movements slow. They were rather fitted for the rude purposes of husbandry, to carry forth the manure, and to bring home the harvest, than to facilitate the operations of commerce.

The theatres of all great transactions are haunted by solemn and sentimental genii; and the pilgrim to the shrines of antiquity, as he passes over the silent and lonely arena of Pharsalia, feels the presiding influence, and sympathizes with the melancholy manes of that fatal field. We, however, had not the enjoyment of this pensive inspiration; for we did not approach the consecrated spot, being content with the visit that the genius paid us in a cottage of Phersela, where we halted for the night.

The character of an age may be ascertained, with some degree of precision, by that of the cotemporary individual who acquires the greatest degree of distinction. The promiscuous sensuality; the generous ostentation; the magnanimous sensibility; and the literary accomplishments of Cæsar, indicate the profligacy, the magnificence, the gallantry, and the refinement of the Romans. Pompey

was the index of a period that had passed. His aristocratic dignity, and regular deportment, suited an age of method and precedent; but, in a time when mankind had assumed a larger licence in action, these respectable qualities were not calculated to overcome the effects of that masterful familiarity, and intrepid disregard of ancient custom, which marked the conduct of Cæsar.

A JOURNEY.

As we approached the army, the difficulty of obtaining horses became inconvenient. The public messengers having always a preference at the post-houses, we were never sure of the time of our departure from any stage, until actually mounted. Owing to this disagreeable state, it was past four o'clock in the afternoon, before we could get away from the little town of Phersela.

Our horses proved very bad; and we had scarcely advanced half an hour across the plain, when we foresaw that it would be hazardous to think of reaching Larissa that night. Travelling, in these countries, partakes of the nature of errantry. We were then in the rear of a large Ottoman army, from which many deserters were returning, and to which recruits, more desperate than deserters, were constantly going. To return, would have exposed us to the chance of additional detention. We, therefore, resolved to apply for quarters in a village, which we saw at some distance from the main road.

Having passed the dry channel of an occasional river, where it is crossed by a stately bridge of several arches, we approached the village, and were attacked by a number of baying and obstreperous

dogs. The inhabitants were all Turks, and as inhospitable as their curs. They gruffly refused to lodge us; and obliged us to pursue our way, under a lowering and gloomy sky, with no very encouraging expectations. This was the first place in which we found only Mahomedans.

On returning to the road, we fell in with a Greek, by whom we were informed, that, in the village of Bacratsi, which stood about two hours' walk off the highway, we should find a comfortable khan. As he knew a by-path across the fields, we induced him to guide us; and reached the door of the khan when the night was fully darkened, and just as the rain began to pour.

This inn, a miserable hovel, "abundant in circumstances of no elegant recital," was already so full of native travellers, that we could not find a place to sit down. In this extremity, we resolved to apply to the Turkish magistrate of the village; and, sending a messenger on before, rode to his house. Our wants were explained to him, and he admitted us with a cheerful invitation. On entering the lighted room where he was sitting, with two Albanian soldiers, drinking coffee, we found him a Moor. He immediately ordered another room to be prepared for us. Our servant dressed a supper, which we ate unmolested, and early stretched ourselves out to sleep.

All night the rain poured copiously, and the frequent blast laved it against the windows with such violence, that it often disturbed our repose. Before day light, I heard a cautious kind of noise stirring at the outside of the chamber door. I listened — my heart beat audibly — my companion was asleep. The noise subsided, and I

heard the sound of feet softly retreating. The Turks are early risers; and the people of the house, engaged with their domestic affairs, had, in the neighbourhood of our room, proceeded quietly, that they might not awaken us too early.

LARISSA.

At the dawn of day, the fury of the wind and the water abated; but the appearance of the skies was dejectingly dull. As we approached Larissa, the sun, however, broke out with a comfortable brightness, and the four and twenty spires of the city looked inviting and cheerful. Milton has alluded to the sentiment of gaiety which pervades the heart of a man, who, after having been long pent in populous cities, passes into the midst of rural scenery, and smells the dairy and the dunghill. Not less delightful are the emotions of the wayfaring traveller, when, after smoky cottages, stinted meals, sloughy roads, and sluggish horses, he sees the domes and gilded steeples of a crowded town, hears the cries of itinerant victuallers, and scents the various fragrance of the plentiful shambles and the savoury huxstry.

The country, round the city, is very well cultivated, and we observed several vineyards of a respectable extent. On the stubble fields a number of cattle were feeding on straw which had been scattered purposely for fodder. On entering the gate, a custom-house harpy pounced upon our luggage; which, however, it surrendered, upon being paid, by our Turk, the magnificent fee of five paras, a sum equal to one penny and a half of British money.

Larissa is pleasantly situated on the right bank of the Peneus, which is here a large stream, flowing under a handsome stone bridge of many arches, near to which, opposite to the town, stands the house of the governor, the best public residence that we had yet seen in Turkey. The air is insalubrious; and, during autumn, fevers are frequent and fatal. The public fountains are not numerous, but an abundant supply of water is brought from the river on horseback, in leather sacks, made of entire hides. One of the streets is occupied, almost wholly, by Jews, the descendants of Spanish refugees. Their houses are mean, and they are, themselves, considered as very poor. Several of the Turks here are opulent, and inhabit large and gaudily painted mansions. The buildings, in general, are, like the swallow's nest, a composition of mud and straw, which, unless concealed by paint or whitening, has a mean and temporary appearance. We had the unexpected pleasure of seeing a respectable curricle, and were informed, that similar vehicles, capable of going to Salonika, may be hired by the day. The season was too far advanced for us to make the experiment.

No antiquities, of any traceable form, except a few trunks of pillars, and a female statue, which serves as a post at the corner of a street, struck our attention. In one of the pathways, in the great cemetery, I saw two pieces of a column resembling verd antique, and, in the pavement, fragments that seemed to be of the same rare and esteemed material. I also noticed, in another burying-ground, an ancient Greek tombstone, of which the epitaph had been obliterated, to make room for a Turkish inscription. Several of the moschs are handsome edifices, crowned with domes.

Larissa has suffered severely in the general system of extortion which Ali Pashaw has, so long, remorselessly practised. Many of the Greek families have emigrated; and the manufactures of the place, which consist of neatly striped silk and cotton stuffs, calicoes, and coarse cloths, have, in consequence, greatly declined; for, in this part of the empire, and, indeed, throughout Greece and Macedonia, the Turks are rather a military than a civil race.

Vilhi Pashaw, a few days before our arrival, had rested his army here, consisting of upwards of eight thousand men, and we could not learn that the troops had committed any excesses, such as we had been led to believe, and were prepared to expect. On the contrary, we were told that the strictest discipline, as far as respected the deportment of the men, was enforced; and that he had himself deviated from his usual tenderness of life, in order to maintain it. One day, as he happened to be riding in the environs, he saw two soldiers in a vineyard, plundering the grapes, and immediately rode up to them, and shot them both on the spot.

The bread in Larissa is better than in any part of the Turkish dominions which I have visited. Owing to the town having been, so lately before, the head quarters of a large military body, we found the price of every article of provision greatly enhanced. In ordinary times, the market is cheap and well supplied.

The banks of the Peneus are overhung with stately beeches, and a fringe of elders; and the adjacent fields consist, chiefly, of tobacco and cotton gardens, here and there interspersed with a bright display of printed calicoes on the green. In walking along the margin, the day soft and grey, the air mild and balmy, insensibly

produced that agreeable submission of mind, in which the memory becomes more predominant than the fancy. The gentle sense of past pleasure diffuses a satisfaction that approximates nearer to the idea of happiness than that emotion which springs from the expectations and encouragements of hope. Whilst ruminating amidst the placid scenery of these beautiful banks, among other topics of thought and recollection, the story of Apollo and Daphne was insinuated. After a languid effort to unravel the allegory, I acquiesced in thinking, as Pausanias sagaciously did of this story, if I recollect rightly, that Daphne was more likely to have been the daughter of a human king of the name of Peneus, than of the natural river. I have a romance, in which the descent of Godfrey of Boulogne is indisputably traced to a swan; and I have seen, in a book of heraldry, that the first Earls of Northumberland were descended from a Norwegian damsel that had been ravished by a bear. It is true, that the heralds explain this, as having reference to the emblazons on shields. Perhaps the ancients had, also, similar mystical symbols, which, if known, would help to explain some of the absurdities of their mythological fables.

THE VALE OF TEMPE.

All the post-horses being in requisition for the public service, we were detained several hours before any could be procured to hire; and it was three o'clock in the afternoon when we left Larissa. We passed, on the plain, several large barrows, the uninscribed monuments of departed ambition. About sun-set we entered the Vale of Tempé, and had a delightful ride, by moonlight, to the

village of Baba, where we slept. At break of day we were again on horseback.

The scenery of this beautiful valley fully gratified our expectations. In some places it is sylvan, calm, and harmonious, and the sound of the waters of the Peneus accords with the graciousness of the surrounding landscape; in others it is savage, terrific, and abrupt, and the river roars with violence, darkened by the frown of stupendous precipices, in whose gloomy recesses the traveller expects to see the gleam of the robber's eye, and passes on, overawed and silent. At a short distance below the cotton-manufacturing village of Ambelaki, the motion of the river is almost imperceptible; not an air stirred a leaf of the trees which bent over it, dropping, in irregular festoons, the wild hop, the honeysuckle, and other woodbines. All was so perfectly serene and delightful, that it seemed just such a place as a poet would describe as the elysium of the innocent deaf and dumb. Near this enchanting spot, the sides of the vale begin to contract, the hills assume a tremendous appearance, and the road lies in the bottom of a dreadful chasm. The mind is excited, and fills with images of earthquakes and convulsions that rend the mountains asunder. The wars of the giants, with the huge array of the assault of heaven, agitate the imagination. The eye looks towards Olympus: clouds involve its heads; and the mist on Pelion becomes the dust rising, as if Ossa had been newly broken from its summit.

> "Tum Pater Omnipotens misso perfregit Olympum
> Flumine et excussit subjecto Pelio Ossam."

It is impossible not to admire, in this place, the correctness and judgment displayed in the conception of the local fables.

Passing the ruins of buildings anciently constructed for the defence of this formidable glen, the road ascends along the precipices, till it has gained a considerable height, from which there is a superb prospect of cultivated fields, and of the Peneus, winding through a level and beautiful country, beyond which the sea is seen at a great distance. Descending on this open and variegated plain, we had a pleasant ride to the bridge of Lycostomo, which crosses the river, with about twenty large and almost as many small arches. Here we were stopped to pay toll, and saw a party of Turkish cavalry, between forty and fifty, refreshing themselves. They had a banner and two penons planted on the green, and a kettle-drum, but no other music. The horses were gaudily caparisoned, and the men richly dressed. The waterman of the troop was adorned, I thought, in a very tasteful and appropriate manner. He was dressed in black leather, ornamented with little white shells, with which the furniture of his horse was also decorated. The commander wished us a pleasant journey, as we passed, and we success and victory to his enterprize.

A JOURNEY.

Crossing the bridge, we rode through a country, which, in point of cultivation and appearance, would have been respectable in the best parts of England. The sides of the mountains, adorned with numerous villages, seemed to be in an equally prosperous state. The tops of Olympus were wrapped in clouds, and the foliage of Pelion, too remote for us to observe its shaking, exhibited all the tints of

autumn. The flourishing state of the country, and the rich aspect of the views, were truly enlivening.

About two o'clock we reached Platamo, a fortress seated on a promontory. We halted near the walls to take some refreshment; for, without a firman, strangers are not permitted to enter the gates. The wall of a burying-ground served us for seats and table; but an incident arose, while we were there, that would have made us content with our condition, even though the place and fare had been worse. A Turkish officer, who happened also to be baiting near a fountain, observing a Greek passing, rose, and rudely seized him by the collar. On inquiring the cause of this apparently wanton outrage, we were informed, that the Greek belonged to a district where the Turk commanded; and, having been unable to pay a sum of money with which he had been taxed, removed secretly to this neighbourhood with his family. The female relations, and several of the neighbours, came round the Turk, and strongly intreated him to let the poor man go free; but, regardless of their intreaties, he ordered his arms to be bound, and took him away as a culprit.

No argument, nor contrast of circumstances, can deepen the impression that such occurrences make on the mind. The public expence of communities must be defrayed; and where the members fraudulently evade the requisite taxes, they as justly merit punishment, as those who rob or steal from individuals. But there can exist no right in any government to oblige a man to pay that, which to pay, will oblige him to commit crimes. To tax beyond the means of paying, imposes a necessity to cheat or steal. Whenever the

extortions of a government reach this point, the allegiance of the subject is at an end, and rebellion becomes a duty.

About sunset we reached a small village, on the shore, where we expected to have found lodgings; but the houses were all shut, the inhabitants having gone, for some purpose, secular or ecclesiastical, to a neighbouring town. We saw only two groupes of Greek fishermen: one playing at cards on the beach, and the other, round a fire, roasting a large eel on a stick.

The eel-roasters told us, that we were only two hours' distance from Katrina; we, therefore, left them, in the hope of reaching it in half the time by riding smartly; but they neglected to tell us, that the road lay through a shallow lake of more than a mile in extent. The moon was now in all her glory; and the still expanse of water that we had to pass, illuminated by her beams, was a more splendid than pleasant object. Our guide being acquainted with the road, and assuring us that there was no danger, we followed, with cautious steps; but the idea of wading across such a sea, would, even in the light of noon, never have entered our heads. We got through, however, without much difficulty, but so slowly, that we were upwards of four hours in travelling a distance, that, in the dry season, is only computed at two. Fortunately, it was the Ramazan, and, on arriving at Katrina, the governor was not in bed; we, therefore, had no difficulty in obtaining a house, and our servant procured us excellent wine, which, with a stewed goose and onions, enabled us to enjoy a comfortable supper, after having been more than sixteen hours on horseback.

It was our intention, previously, to have ascended mount Olympus, in order to sit on it like gods; but, in the morning, when we awoke, it was covered with snow, and the undertaking appeared, otherwise, so laborious, that we abandoned the design.

At breakfast, one of us happened to spill a little wine on the floor, which, we were assured, was a most auspicious omen; but, had it been oil, God preserve us! The spilling of wine, in the course of a journey, or undertaking, is held, among the Greeks, to betoken a prosperous issue; but the dropping of oil is a fatal omen.

Instead of going round the head of the gulf to Salonika, we rode to a place on the shore, where there is a custom-house and salt-works, in order to hire a boat to take us over. Here we fortunately found one, and agreed, with the master, to be carried to the city for fifteen piastres, he having leave to take other passengers, of whom about half a dozen were then waiting. Among them was a young Turk, going to the war, who, before embarking, spread his mantle on the beach, and, turning his face towards the south, implored the aid and protection of God and the Prophet.

We had a speedy and pleasant passage; but the minerets were illuminated, and the gates were shut, before we arrived, so that we were obliged to take up our lodgings in a coffee-house on the wharf. The master civilly furnished us with a private apartment. The public room, in any part of the world, would be considered respectable.

SALONIKA.

Salonika is about six English miles in circumference. By ancient marks, it appears to have been, formerly, larger. It is surrounded

by a wall, flanked, at short distances, by towers, and protected by four castles, which, though not capable of sustaining a siege against bombs and rockets, are, at least, sufficient to defend the town against sudden incursions; and more, a large city should not be prepared to resist. The streets are dirty, ill-paved, obscured and obstructed with projections from the houses. The bazars are also mean, for the extent of the town; but one or two of the khans, surmounted with domes, may claim, in Turkey, the epithet of elegant.

The number of the inhabitants is estimated, but grossly, at seventy thousand; of whom thirty thousand are Jews, twenty thousand Turks, and from ten to fifteen thousand Greeks; the remainder consists of Franks of various nations.

The Jews enjoy here greater privileges than in any part of Christendom, unless it be in England, or, latterly, in France. They are descended from Spanish refugees, who negotiated for certain advantages before their removal, and which they have since been allowed to enjoy. They are exempted from the capitation tax, on condition of furnishing a certain quantity of cloth for the Janizaries; and they have the privilege of pre-emption or refusal, before any other purchasers, of a certain quantity of wool annually. This has evident reference to the cloth which they furnish to the Janizaries*. Although more numerous than the Greeks, they pay only one part of the taxes, while the Greeks pay two. Their synagogues are also allowed to be open to the streets, while the churches of the Chris-

*. Strabo says, that the Thessalians were the first of the Greeks who invented great coats, in imitation of the people of more northern latitudes.

tians are placed in obscure lanes and corners. They form, indeed, here, a kind of little republic, with judges, assessors, and a council, the head of which is the chief of their religion. To defray the expenses of this organized community, they have taxed the provisions that they consume themselves; and the proceeds are so liberal, that it enables them to assist the indigent, and to aid the insolvent. In their conduct, they have the reputation of being so orderly, that they are seldom involved in any dispute with the Turks. Formerly, they were considered very rich; but, having lent money to the Turks, who, by the war, and the decline of the empire, are no longer in a condition to pay, they have become generally very poor. They have an academy, which I visited, and in which, as I was told, about two thousand children are annually taught to read and write Hebrew.

The Greeks and Franks inhabit the lower parts of the town, the Jews the middle, and the Turks the upper. There is one street chiefly occupied by workers in iron, who trace their origin from Egypt. They profess the Mahomedan faith, but the Turks do not esteem them as true believers. There is some difference between the Mahomedanism of this part of the world, and that of Africa; but I know not in what that difference consists.

The city is governed by a bey and a mula. The bey also governs the province; and his jurisdiction extends over the civil and military powers. The mula judges, definitively, of criminal and civil disputes, except when the governor happens to have three tails, or is a vizier. There is an aga, or colonel of the Janizaries, who is also the special protector of the Jews. These officers are usually changed annually, the old going out at one gate as the new enter at another. The Greeks have

their own magistrates, who communicate on their affairs directly with the governor.

The curiosities of Salonika consist of fragments of the magnificence of the ancient Thessalonica. The most esteemed, is a colonnade of four Corinthian pillars, supporting caryatides; one of which represents Leda and the Swan! The sculpture is good, and the ruin is a favourable specimen of ancient architecture. I conceive that it must have been the façade to a palace, or some other public edifice.

The triumphal arch is the next object worthy of attention. It is built of brick, encrusted with marble, on which the subject of the triumph was executed in bas-relief. The greatest part of the marble, and the ornaments, have been removed; but there is still enough of the sculpture remaining, to show, that, when it was entire, it must have been a very gorgeous structure—but the workmanship, though rich and striking in effect, has nothing, otherwise, to recommend it. It is said to have been erected in honour of a victory which Marcus Aurelius gained over the barbarians.

The church of St. Demetrius, the pride of Salonika, is now used by the Turks as a mosch. It is a stately and spacious cathedral, adorned with the finest and most valuable marbles; among others, with two pillars of red porphyry, said, vulgarly, to be worth their weight in gold. But the symmetry of this architecture does not correspond to the value of the materials. For the building seems to have been formed out of the remains and relics of other edifices; and, after the effect of the first view, the eye is offended at the disorderly rudeness with which shafts and capitals have been joined.

We were shown a chamber, in which there is burning a lamp,

over a small platform, where St. Demetrius was killed. He was the pro-consul of the city. How he suffered martyrdom, I do not recollect to have heard; but, when slain, his blood issued in such a deluge, that, like the blood of the Ram of Derby, it carried away the butchers. The Turks maintain the lamp burning over the tomb, to keep the saint quiet, as the Greeks say; otherwise, they fear that he would sally forth on horseback, and drive them to the devil. But this is only a priestly fiction. Besides keeping the manes of Demetrius in good humour, the lamp also serves to show a plate, in which it is customary to deposit a few small pieces of money.

Passing from the Cathedral, we were conducted to the ancient metropolitan, which has also been converted into a mosch. It is a rotunda, evidently of very great antiquity. The dome is ornamented with Mosaic pictures, of very elegant design, in a style of drawing, that indicates the art to have been, at the time of their delineation, in a respectable state. Near the principal porch, there is a marble pulpit, formed of one entire piece, ornamented with effigies, and the symbols of the Eucharist; but the workmanship has nothing to recommend it. At one of the gates, there is a beautiful white marble bason, which now serves a fountain; perhaps it was, formerly, the baptismal font.

We then went to the church of St. Sophia. It is needless to say, that, throughout Turkey, all the finest ecclesiastical fabrics have been converted to the use of the state religion. It was public prayers when we arrived; and, with a strong impression of the jealousy with which the Turks judiciously regard intrusions into their temples, and upon their worship, we hesitated some time about entering; at last,

however, we dared to advance, passing along the walls as demurely as possible. Like the St. Demetrius, the church of St. Sophia seems to have been constructed with the remains of other buildings, and not with marbles purposely prepared. Many of the pillars are considered of great value; but they are so obscured with dust, that they have no longer any remarkable beauty.

What was anciently the Circus, is now an open place, planted with trees. Adjoining to it is a large dyery, in which we were shewn an extensive subterranean archway; in which, probably, the wild beasts and horses of the exhibitions were formerly kept. Of all the spectacles of cruelty of which this place has been the scene, the most terrible was that which the Emperor Theodosius ordered to be performed, in the year 390; the cause and circumstances of which give us a more correct notion of the licentious morality of the ancients, than any other public event in the Roman history. The governor of the city had a beautiful slave, of whom one of the actors in the hippodrome became odiously enamoured, and violated. The governor threw the miscreant into prison. The people, with whom he was a favourite, being disappointed of their amusement, rose in a tumult, and murdered the governor, with several of his officers. Theodosius, enraged at their criminality, resolved, as the offence was perpetrated by the public, that the punishment should also be inflicted on the public. The people, accordingly, in the name of the emperor, were invited to the hippodrome, to an entertainment. Private orders having been given for a massacre, the signal for the performance to begin was also that for the slaughter, and a vast multitude was slain; not less, it has been said, than seven thousand persons. An event such as this,

from any similar cause, seems no longer a possible occurrence in Europe. Mankind are not perfectible, but they are certainly improvable beings.

When the name of Thessalonica came to be changed to Salonika is extremely doubtful. It, probably, arose out of a vulgar abbreviation, and came to be established only by usage. The city was anciently called Halis, and changed to Thessalonica by Philip, the father of Alexander, in commemoration of a victory which he gained, near it, over the Thessalians. Cedrenus mentions, that Salonika was, at one time, intended by Constantine for the new capital, before he had fixed on Byzantium.

The archbishops of Salonika always held a high rank in the hierarchy of the Oriental church. Their authority extended over all the provinces to the westward, as far as the Adriatic, and southward to the shores of the Gulfs of Corinth and Egina. Till the capture of the city by the Turks, the schismatical dispute between the Greek and Roman churches was variously and fervently maintained by the prelates of this see. As the Greek clergy could not get the better of the Roman by argument, they ministered to the admission of the infidels.

The most remarkable event in the ecclesiastical transactions which took place in this city, was the preaching of St. Paul. He mentions, in his letters from Athens, that, when he was here, promulgating the revealed doctrines, he had worked at his trade, that he might not be chargeable. If the precepts of the apostles be obligatory on the priesthood, surely the principles by which they regulated their conduct ought also to be held of some authority. In no

part of the Gospels, or of the Epistles, are we told either of the utility or the expediency to Christianity, of an established political church. National churches, with their peculiar rites and institutions, may, therefore, be regarded rather as the contrivances of statesmen, than as formed for carrying into operation the principles and influences of Christ's revelation*.

When Macedonia was subdued by the Romans, Thessalonica became the residence of the proconsuls of the province. Theodosius, the emperor, after defeating the Goths and Huns, was converted to Christianity here; and it was also from this town, that his edict, proscribing Arianism, was issued. The barbarians, more than once, plundered Salonika. In the year 1180, it was taken by William the Norman, king of Sicily, but soon restored again to the jurisdiction of the emperors of Constantinople. In 1413, Andronicus Paleologos sold it to the Venetians;—for that once opulent, active, commercial, and great naval state, in supplying crazed, corrupted, and condemned courts, with the means of defence and maintenance, did not deal in benevolences; but bought commodious parts of those territories which its allies, themselves, were unable to protect: thus honestly and judiciously enlarging its own power and resources.

In the days of the Apostles, nothing existed like an incorporation of different churches under territorial governors, like modern bishops. All the epistles are written in such a manner as distinctly to mark this fact. As, to "the church of Corinth," "the church of the Thessalonians," &c. But, when Christian congregations in a province are addressed, the plural number is always employed; as "the churches of Macedonia," (of which the congregation of Thessalonica was one,) "the seven churches in Asia," &c. And Paul, writing to the Colossians, desires his letter to be read also "in the church of the Laodiceans."

Eight years after the purchase, Amurath II. obliged the Venetians to surrender; and, since that time, Salonika has remained in the hands of the Turks. In the projected partition of Turkey, Austria may here be indemnified for the loss of Trieste.

TRADE.

Although the name of a British factory is still given to the consular establishment, I did not find a British merchant settled in Salonika.

Grain is the great article of exportation from the fertile environs of the gulf; above five hundred thousand bushels of wheat alone are annually shipped.

Cotton has, latterly, been much cultivated in the adjacent districts; and upwards of forty thousand loads, of three hundred weight each, are now yearly sent overland into Germany. The seed costs little more than a farthing of our money per pound. It is sown at the end of April; the plants are weeded about the beginning of June; and the harvest is collected in October. The seed is separated from the wool, by turning the pods in a machine, by a roller, against a sharp edge; the cotton passing under the edge to the outside, and the seeds falling backward. As the climate here is subject to heavy rains in the fall, it often happens that the pods are obliged to be dried in ovens, which frequently bakes them so much, that the material of the pod pulverizes in the separating process, and makes the cotton foul, and of inferior value. The cotton plant, judging from what I learnt here, might, probably, be cultivated, with success, in England.

The silk, annually collected in the neighbourhood of Salonika, is estimated at upwards of sixty thousand pounds weight. It is of four different qualities. When the coarsest is worth about nine shillings sterling per pound, the finest brings double that price.

Excellent wool was formerly exported, in large quantities, to France; but the trade has entirely ceased. The Albanian agents buy it up in the interior, and it is sent overland into Germany, principally, I have understood, for the Aix-la-Chapelle manufacturers. It is part of the new policy of France to encourage overland intercourse in preference to maritime. The passing of caravans through regions, in which the spirit of industry has scarcely been awakened, tends to excite it to activity. The disbursement attending them, diffuses the means of procuring those new gratifications which they bring along; and they increase the value of local property, by facilitating the removal of the produce.

Tobacco is still a considerable branch of trade in Salonika; but it is no longer of the consequence that was once ascribed to it: perhaps, too, the increasing demand for cotton, and the culture being less laborious and more productive, has tended to diminish the cultivation of the former. The value of what was sold in this district, five years ago, was reckoned at eighty thousand pounds sterling; but it does not now amount to two thirds of that sum.

In Macedonia tobacco is sown in the month of March, and gathered in the month of August. The small leaves, near the top, are the first collected. The leaves of ordinary size and appearance are spread out, and dried in the fields; but the better kind are hung on cords, and more carefully attended. When they are dried, bales are

formed, which, about the beginning of the year, are ready for exportation. Egypt consumes the chief part of the Salonika tobacco. Considerable quantities were formerly sent into Italy; and the fine might yet be profitably introduced into England. Generally, however, the use of the plant has declined, owing, perhaps, in some remote degree, to the extreme activity to which the minds of men have been of late excited. The pipe is the minister of indolence and reverie. Snuffing, like the wearing of hair-powder, begins, also, to be regarded as a dirty practice.

STATE OF SOCIETY.

Several of the principal Frank families, in Salonika, are of English descent; but the pleasures of society here, as in every other place to which the French and British have still access together, is greatly impaired by the minute points to which the French system of hostility is carried. As it is dangerous for a Frenchman to visit the friends of the British, a restless corrosive spirit of intrigue consumes the cordiality of former intimates.

It being the ramazan, during which the Turks abstain all day from every kind of refreshment, converting the day into night, there were several nocturnal amusements: among others, we heard of a comedy to be performed by puppets, and made arrangements with our acquaintance to see the exhibition. It was rude and most indecent, equal in every respect to the rites and mysteries with which the ancients worshipped Priapus.

The inhabitants begin again to have some slight notion of public amusements. They have built a pavilion, close to the sea side, within

a short and pleasant walk from the western gate of the city, to which, during the summer, they make excursions to smoke. Over the gate leading to this place, there is a rude picture of the triumphal entry of the Mahomedans into the town, and several ancient defaced marble heads placed, like those of traitors, above it. Before the walls were lately repaired, other sculptures, of Roman origin, were visible, but they are now concealed or destroyed.

Salonika, after Athens, possesses the best remains of antiquity that we had met with; but none of them are in so pure a taste, nor so well preserved, as to tempt the attention of artists.

In the course of walking round this city, we had occasion to pass through one of the cemeteries; but the horrible effluvia from the graves obliged us to alter our course. The Turks do not make use of coffins. Having deposited the dead, they place over the body a few thin pieces of wood, and then cover it with earth. Heavy rain has often the effect of opening passages down to the putrifying mass, occasioning that pernicious and terrible smell which we experienced, and to which may, in some degree, be attributed the frequency of pestilential diseases in Turkey.

ORFANO.

We left Salonika with more regret, than the passing stranger generally feels when he leaves a mere halting-place. We had received much kindness and hospitality during our stay, and were only long enough there to taste the enjoyments of society, without becoming sensible of the restraints and jealousies which have lessened them to the inhabitants. Our ride to Clissali was through an open coun-

try. The distance, at the post rate, is seven hours, but we performed it in four and a half. The Tartar whom we had engaged to provide us with horses, and to guard us to Constantinople, was a good faithful man. He bore an excellent character among all the consuls; and we found he deserved it. Being very pious, he kept the fast of the ramazan with exemplary severity, and he never passed a beggar on the road without bestowing alms. We invited him, sometimes, to taste our punch, or wine; but he told us that he wished to go, after death, into paradise, and steadily refused. I scarcely remember ever to have seen a more decorous and sedate character. We paid him eight hundred piastres, and he provided us with nine horses. The distance is computed at three hundred and sixty miles; and his profit, after defraying the expenses of his return, would, the consul informed us, be from two hundred, to two hundred and fifty piastres—about fifteen pounds sterling. For this sum, he had to travel, in all, seven hundred and twenty miles; and the time occupied, would be about sixteen days.

The khan at Clissali was one of the meanest houses in which we had yet lodged. The village itself is but a poor place. A few days before our arrival, (for our stay at Salonika was prolonged on account of the passing of troops,) Vilhi Pashaw inspected his army here, which had accumulated to nearly twenty thousand men, chiefly Albanians. Though the passing of so large a force, mostly cavalry, could not but be a great drain on the country, we heard of no excesses, except in some of the soldiers carrying away the saddles and bridles of the post-horses.

Notwithstanding the uncomfortable state of our abode, we slept soundly. About two hours before day, the Tartar roused us; and, with the light of the moon, we proceeded on our journey. The morning was clear, but, the ground being covered with hoar frost, the air blew pinchingly cold. At sun-rise we were on the banks of an extensive lake. The southern banks appeared to be rural and well cultivated; but the northern, along which our road lay, consisted of steep hills, covered, to their summits, with trees and bushes. Leaving the lake behind, we entered a spacious romantic pass, between the mountains, through which a fine stream runs from the lake. At the entrance, the ruins of a picturesque fortress, which formerly, doubtless, was the sentinel, crowns the rocks and precipices on the right. This pass leads to an open plain, bounded by the sea, where the appearance of the scenery reminded me of the neighbourhood of Luss, on the banks of Lochlomond. We halted for a few minutes near a fountain, overshadowed by a drooping willow; and there is a similar kind of tree not far from the inn at Luss. It is thus that general recollections are excited by the view of particular objects. These pleasant similarities, discovered unexpectedly in remote countries, awaken a pensive pleasure, which travellers alone can know and appreciate. The views, in the course of the ride from this spot, were agreeably diversified, and the country seemed to be in an improving state. We were ferried across the Stremon; near to which, we saw the walls of an ancient fortress. At Salonika, we had been led to believe that our road lay through the ruins of Philippi; but the mistake had arisen from a belief that these walls belonged to

that city. We were, of course, a little disappointed; but we did not think that the sight of Philippi would repay us for the trouble of seeking it. We, therefore, pursued our journey, ascending the mountains, at the bottom of which the ancient fortification is situated. From the brow of the hills we had a delightful view of the pleasant valley and town of Orfano, situated below, and which we reached a few minutes before sunset. In riding into the town, we saw, in the cemetery, an old Turk, disconsolately stretched on a new tombstone, with a child in his arms. These people, notwithstanding their general haughtiness and arrogance, are frequently found with gentle and affectionate hearts. It was evident, from the circumstances, that this meditator among the tombs, was mourning a recent loss.

On alighting at the khan, an old Turkish gentleman invited us into his room, until that allotted for us could be prepared. Being the ramazan, he had, of course, taken no refreshment all day, but, the sun was on the point of setting, and he was all in readiness to begin. A kettle, for his coffee, was boiling on the fire, his pipe was filled ready to be lighted, and he had a gold snuff-box in his hand, ready to rap, the moment that the sun should be out of sight. He told us that he had been twelve years governor of Livadia, where he had frequently been visited by English travellers, and that he was on his way to Constantinople, on confidential business of the bey of Salonika. He was exceedingly curious, like all the Turks, for news; and, though odd and droll in his peculiarities, was a shrewd, sensible man. If the Turks happen to be travelling when the ramazan commences, they do not consider themselves as bound to keep it;

but, if they have begun the fast, and undertake a journey before it is ended, they continue the discipline. The Turk, after John Bull, is the most knowing keeper of fasts. He abstains with drowsy patience all the livelong day, but, in the night, amply indemnifies his stomach. John reverentially distinguishes his fasts by a dish of salt fish, with egg-sauce, in addition to the customary beef and pudding.

PREVOSTO.

We rose very early, and were again mounted fully two hours before day-light. The air was exceedingly cold; but the prospect of the valley, through which our road lay, as the sun ascended above the mountains, recompensed us for our suffering under the chill influence of the moon of the morning. I had seen no tract of equal length, since my departure from England, more beautiful. Nor is there any part of England itself in a higher state of cultivation. The fields were planted with tobacco and cotton, and the hedges were neat, and well kept.

Prevosto, like other towns in this part of the country, is walled, but certainly not fortified, for the walls are built without mortar, and not thicker than a common garden inclosure. It is situated at the entrance into an open country, at the bottom of a dull rocky glen. It has a little manufactory of printed callicoes and dyed stuffs, and several of the shops make a respectable show. A small stream flows cheerfully through the principal street; and, in general, for its extent, it must be called a lively town. The population may be about three thousand souls.

Although the post at Prevosto is furnished with no less than one

hundred and fifty horses, none were to be had when we arrived, Vilhi Pashaw having put them in requisition. We found, in the khan, among other disappointed travellers, the old governor of Livadia, with whom we renewed acquaintance. He happened to observe a bottle of rum in our apartment, and, in the evening, sent for a glass of it. Our room was the worst that we had ever met with. The roof was broken in, and the unplastered walls presented the dens and abodes, no doubt, of scorpions and reptiles. We, however, found the means of making a sociable fire; which, with the help of a comfortable supper, enabled us to sleep several hours, unmolested, though defenceless. The Tartar roused us at two o'clock, horses having arrived. On inquiring for the governor, we found he had set off at midnight.

YENIGÆA.

After quitting the gates, or, more properly, the doors of Prevosto, we formed ourselves into close squadron, and rode briskly: for, the Pashaw's army being in the neighbourhood, we dreaded deserters. As the day dawned, we found ourselves on the rocky heights, which overlook the island of Thasos, the ancient Æthreæ, so famous, of old, for its gold mines and excellent wine.

At sunrise we reached Cavallo, a handsome town, situated on a promontory, inclosed with an embattled wall, and crowned with an infirm castle. We did not stop here; but, passing under the lofty aqueduct, which consists of a double row of arches, descended on the plain on the east side of the promontory. We noticed, however, not

far from the aqueduct, two marble sarcophagi, which serve as troughs to a fountain.

Cavallo is considered, in some sort, as one of the ports of Adrianople. While we were passing the aqueduct, we fell in with a great body of horses, loaded with merchandize, on their way to that city. The plain on the east of Cavallo, particularly in the vicinity of the town, is very respectably cultivated. Indeed, generally, from Larissa, we found the state of the country greatly superior to our expectations: for the most part, it would not have been disreputable to the best kingdoms of Christendom.

Soon after leaving Cavallo, we met a pashaw and a party of cavalry, going to join Vilhi Pashaw's army. The solemn docility of the Asiatic countenance proved their origin. The dress of the men being different from any other that we had seen, we conceived that they must have come from a remote province. We turned off the main road, to make way for them; on which the Pashaw came up, and, inquiring of the Tartar what we were, complimented us as we passed.

Having crossed a spacious shallow stream, our ride lay through an open forest of beautiful glades and stately trees, from which we passed upon an uncultivated waste, and reached, at sunset, the large village of Yenigæ. We found the old governor arrived before us; and had scarcely alighted, when a crazy Venetian doctor came to pay us a visit. The governor, fatigued with his journey, felt somewhat unwell, and gave his pulse to be examined by the doctor; but soon perceiving, from his bald disjointed chat, that something

was wrong with the doctor himself, he significantly touched his forehead, and would have nothing to do with him. He preferred to participate in our punch, and in the evening, afterwards, sent for a second supply of rum. Happening to look at our map, he informed us, that Spain was the country of the Jews, and that we were then travelling in Rumali [Romalia].

JUMERGENA.

The Turkish inhabitants of the country far out-number the Christians, and their military character is much less conspicuous. We found them, in all the little offices requisite at the khans, and the different places where we had occasion to halt, willing to oblige, and respectful for their recompence. In the forenoon, our ride was through a flourishing tract of country, till we passed the ivied ruins of an extensive fortress, situated near the sea-shore. From that place, the road lay across an open waste, over which we saw the town of Jumergena, situated in the midst of a grove of lofty trees, through the branches of which, the towers of a castle formed, with the minerets, a pleasant prospect, reminding us of the view of some of the old substantial market-towns of England. Nor was the impression of the distant appearance lessened as we approached. On the skirts of the town, the road, well made and spacious, was shaded with trees, and lined with hedges; and, on entering the gate, we were agreeably surprised with the opulent show in the streets. Many of the houses were new, the shops were numerous and well filled, and we passed a very considerable dyery of cloths and cotton stuffs, which are manufactured in the town. The khan at which we halted was

also the best that we had seen, and the postillions active cheerful fellows; indeed, every thing about Jumergena was prosperous and superior.

FERRI.

It was two o'clock in the afternoon when we mounted; and, although we had been eight hours on the road, we had still a journey of ten more, of the post-rate, to perform; but the Tartar informed us, that we might hope to do it in six. We had not proceeded far, when we met an express Tartar from Constantinople, which he had left only the day before. In less than thirty-six hours he had come fully two hundred miles, and would not rest till he reached Salonika. Our postillions and Tartar, after taking leave of him, for they halted to inquire the news, emulated his speed; and, in less than the half of our journey, we found that we had gained more than an hour and a half.

We halted for a few minutes at a little coffee-house on the skirts of a village at the bottom of the ridges of Mount Rhodope. The road from Jumergena had been a gradual ascent; and we were not aware of the height that we had attained, till, looking back on the plain, from the coffee-house, we found ourselves already greatly elevated. The mountains, rocky and steep, which we had still to ascend, were here and there shagged with brushwood, and afforded no pasturage. The Tartar, finding by his watch, that the sun would still be some time above the horizon, instead of waiting for the setting, mounted, and took a burning stick in his hand to light his pipe.

When we reached the top of the mountains, the region beyond was already in shadow; but, on looking back on the vast plain which we had travelled, the sun was still in sight, and presented a most magnificent spectacle. The clouds around him shone like alps of solid fire, and his orb appeared only like a more intense spark in the midst of the burning. In the course of a few seconds he disappeared; and, before we left the top of the ridge, the clouds had lost much of their splendour.

The Tartar lighted his pipe; and, beginning to sing, we proceeded, with abated speed, to descend.

For some time the road lay through bushes and briers; but, as we advanced, we found ourselves entering among trees, and were, finally, involved in the labyrinths of a close forest, the nodding horror of which was considerably enhanced by the shadows of the twilight. The descent, along the side of a precipitous declivity, was every moment becoming steeper.

The Tartar ceased to sing; and we rode compactly and rapidly.

The frequent turnings of the path induced the postillions, now and then, to halloo, in order to prepare other travellers for our approach, and to keep up their own courage. In the intervals, we went on in silence. At length, a shrill whistle was heard at a distance. Without slackening our speed, we pressed forward, and hurried down the descent.

In the thicket, as we passed, we observed two horsemen, dismounted, holding their horses. We went by them without speaking.

Soon after, a spark happened to glance from the hoof of the Tartar's horse immediately before me, and shewed, through an

opening in the bushes which lined the lower side of the road, that we were on the brink of a tremendous precipice. There was just enough of twilight to shew the trees which hung from the sides at a great depth below; and a lower deep still opening. I turned round to desire my friend to look down. He was riding unguardedly on the very edge.

From this place the descent was so rapid and headlong, that we could scarcely keep our saddles, till we reached the bed of an occasional torrent. Soon after, we arrived at a little coffee-house, kept by two Turkish hermits. We halted to let the horses breathe; and the old men, who had a blazing fire, made coffee for us. While we were resting, our interpreter, who had gone to fetch water from a fountain which he had heard gushing behind the house, returned suddenly, with amazement in his eyes. The Tartar, at the same moment, drew his sword; and one of the hermits, taking a brand from the fire, we all sallied forth to behold — a sumptuous fountain, with four large well-scoured brass cocks, discharging a copious flow of the purest water. The Tartar had drawn his sword to split a piece of pine which he lighted as we mounted, and carried as a torch to shew our way down the bed of the torrent, which we found was also our course. The heights from which we had descended now beetled over us; and, for more than an hour of smart riding, we found ourselves in the bottom of a dismal and terrific chasm, which fully realized all the ideas that I had formed of the rocks and caverns of Thrace.

The dimness of the star-light, when we issued upon the open country, prevented us from forming any idea of our situation; but,

from the long time that we had been in descending, we concluded that we had reached the foot of the mountains, till we discovered the illuminated minerets of the little town of Ferri far below. Never were travellers more sensible of the blessings of an inn than we were on reaching a small coffee-house, where we found a lively fire, and the old governor of Livadia asleep.

KASSAH.

In the morning the governor was again off before us. As usual, we had a ride before the dawn. When the sun rose, we found ourselves in an open pastoral country. At Maira, a town gone into decay, we changed horses. The remains of an aqueduct and fortifications are the monuments of its former importance. We were ferried across the Hebrus in a large square vessel, and it was dark before we reached Kassah. As this town stands on very elevated ground, we were long deceived by the lights of the minerets, which seemed to retreat as we approached. The gates were shut for the night before we arrived; but the Tartar persuaded the guard to admit us. The khan we found almost entitled to the epithet of handsome. It was thronged with travellers; and we were but indifferently accommodated.

The late governor of Kassah had his head struck off for extortions which he had committed on the Christians, who form the major part of the inhabitants. Like the towns, in general, throughout Romalia, Kassah is surrounded by a wall of no strength. It is, however, flanked by a battalion of not less than fifty of Don Quixote's giants, who, as we left the town, were brandishing their arms,

and gallantly fighting with the wind for blowing in their faces. Our ride, for the greatest part of the day, was exceedingly dull; for pastoral scenery, like pastoral poetry, always fills me with languid ideas.

THE LATE HASSAN CAPTAIN PASHAW.

We changed horses at Mulgara, a large town, smitten with decay. Several handsome moschs are the monuments of its departed opulence. It was our intention to reach Rhodosto that evening, but our horses proved very bad; we, therefore, stopped at a village prettily situated in a rural valley, where we found a tolerable coffee-house, the walls of which were decorated with a hideous hieroglyphic, which, we were told, was the portrait of the famous Hassan Captain Pashaw, whom Le Chevalier says he has seen sitting, with a pipe in his mouth, and his elbow resting on a young lion, giving his orders at the arsenal of Constantinople. This extraordinary man was originally a waiter in a coffee-room in Gallipoli; and, being of a surly nature, he quarrelled with one of his companions, and killed him. Obliged to fly, he went to Algiers, where, having distinguished himself by his bravery, the dey made him a governor of a fortress, in which he was taken prisoner by the Spaniards, and carried a slave to Malaga. Some years after, obtaining his liberty, he went to Constantinople, where he was made a captain in the navy. In the battle of Tchesmai he boarded a Russian ship, blew her up with his own, and saved himself by swimming. On returning to the capital, he was made Captain Pashaw; and he proposed to the Sultan to drive the Russians from the isle of Lemnos,

which he accomplished with his characteristic intrepidity. Whenever any part of the empire revolted, it was Hassan that punished. He chastised the beys of Egypt, and killed, with his own hand, a Pashaw of Syria, who had dared to pretend to independence. But the most signal act of his vengeance, was the horrible slaughter which he made of the inhabitants of the Morea, who had embraced the cause of the Russians. Nor in his haram was he less inexorable than in the business of the empire. One of his women was detected pilfering. The first offence he pardoned; but, after the second, he chopped off her hands.

We intended to have slept in the coffee-house, and had our beds made; but, after supper, a number of obstreperous Turkish peasants came in to spend the night, and began to make so much mirth and noise that we were obliged to remove into the stable, where we found a snug nook on a platform appropriated for merchandize, and slept soundly till four o'clock in the morning. At day-light we were delighted to find ourselves again in a cultivated country. It was our original intention only to breakfast in Rhodosto; but we found a khan no way inferior to a good country inn in England, and the town much more considerable and interesting than we had been led to expect.

RHODOSTO.

The population of Rhodosto cannot, I think, be less than twenty thousand souls. We were told that it contained fourteen thousand houses; but this was certainly an exaggeration. It is, however, a large

town. Several of the coffee-houses equal in neatness the ordinary ones of London.

When the Turks and Russians are at peace, Rhodosto enjoys a brisk trade. It exports, annually, to the Black Sea, about fifteen hundred pipes of wine, part of which resembles white Lisbon; but the red is weaker and inferior. This is the only wine-district in the Turkish dominions where I have found the tartar of the lees turned to any account. Here, though in a very impure state, it is in so much request, that the price is seldom under thirty shillings the hundred weight. A small quantity of madder is annually dug, of a quality not much inferior to that of Smyrna. Cotton, also, is cultivated in the neighbourhood; and provisions of all kinds are plentiful and cheap. The inhabitants appeared to be uncommonly tall, with very fair complexions. They have the reputation of being industrious and civil.

SELIVRIA.

We left our comfortable khan about two hours before day-light. On leaving the town we passed a field in which a great number of waggons had been ranged in a circle for the night. Instead of horses, oxen and buffaloes are used, in carriages of all descriptions, in this part of Turkey. Those belonging to the waggons had been roaming all night. The carriers were calling aloud to them to return; and they were obeying, with all their habitual deliberation and gravity.

Our ride, for the greatest part of the way to Selivria, was along the shores of the Marmora. We passed nothing remarkable, till

we reached the neighbourhood of this town, where there is a low stone bridge, of at least thirty arches, built across a marshy hollow. As the bridge has the appearance of being well stricken in years, I should not be surprized to hear it proved to have been a work of the emperors. The Turks consider temporary convenience more than durable utility, or permanent ornament, in their public works.

Selivria stands on the western side of a promontory, overlooking a small bay. On our entrance into the town, we found the streets full of soldiers, and a large train of artillery — a present, as our interpreter sarcastically observed, to the Russians. The cannon were new, and uncommonly handsome; and the waggons were as neatly and well-made as those of Woolwich.

In order to arrive betimes in Constantinople, we were on the road before two o'clock in the morning; so that we had not an opportunity of examining if there are any remains of the long wall, which, anciently, reached from the Propontis to the Euxine. We passed, on the road, several large bands of soldiers returning tired from the Grand Vizier's army, and met recruits going forth to join it. The Turkish army is composed of volunteers, who go and come from the war as they please.

We crossed, by a chain of handsome stone bridges, a long shallow arm of the sea, that extends several miles into the country, and rested at a khan in the village of Booyook-checkmejé [Greatbridge]. While we were breakfasting, several of the deserters arrived. We inquired why they had left the war; and one of them very sensibly said, because it was much harder work than to toil in the fields;

adding, that he would rather be a slave to the Russians, and sweat for them, than be so harassed and exposed to the loss of limbs and life!

From Greatbridge the road is carried up a steep hill, on the brow of which there is a dim and distant view of Constantinople. The intervening country appeared like an open wold, studded, however, here and there, with villages, but "few and far between." The road was paved, and very rough. We halted, for a few minutes, at the town of Kootchook-checkmejé [Littlebridge], which stands on the side of another arm of the sea. On ascending the heights, the whole extent of Constantinople appeared in sight, and seemed to increase in grandeur, as it did in greatness.

The domes of the chief moschs were the first things that the eye detached from the mass of objects; then the grim castle of the seven towers; and, finally, the innumerable minerets, interspersed among shapely cypresses, and other trees of more cheerful foliage. But, unlike the approach to London, where the gay variety of villas and gardens, and the lively emulation of innumerable chariots and horsemen, exhilarate the spirits, the traveller passes on to the very gates of Constantinople, irresistibly disposed to moralize on the vanity of human affairs. He hears nothing like that continuous sound, the voice of London, which is heard so far off; but all is melancholy and solemn. The road lies through fields of sepulchres; the walls are covered with ivy; the towers are nodding to their fall; and the great upas tree, of Ottoman despotism, is approached with sadness and awe. As we entered the gates, the echoes mur-

mured so dismally, and every object bore such an aspect of desolation, that I experienced something like an obtuse feeling of apprehension —

> " How these antique towers
> And vacant courts chill the suspended soul,
> Till expectation wears the cast of fear,
> And fear, half ready to become devotion,
> Mumbles a kind of mental orison,
> It knows not wherefore."
>
> HORACE WALPOLE.

CONSTANTINOPLE.

THE extent and grandeur of this famous metropolis have been greatly exaggerated. Instead of being, according to some travellers, twenty English miles in circumference, I doubt if it be near twelve. Were the port, with the channel of the Bosphorus, reduced to the breadth of the Thames, perhaps, with all Galata, Pera, and Scutari, Constantinople would not be equal to two-thirds of London; and it is not, like London, surrounded with a radiance of villages.

In order not to give way, without some countenance of fact, to an opinion so contrary to the received, I left my lodgings near the Austrian palace, walked to the artillery barracks opposite to the seraglio point, and embarked, for the purpose of making the circuit of the city. I was rowed down to the sultan's shambles, below the

Castle of the Seven Towers; landed there; and, walking, leisurely, along the outside of the walls, to the harbour, I embarked a second time, and was again put ashore at the Arsenal, from which I walked home. Deducting stoppages, it appeared, that the circuit of Constantinople, the seraglio, and gardens, with all that part of the harbour which is occupied by the trading-vessels, the town of Galata, and a considerable part of Pera, was made in little more than three hours and a half. The boats were not rowed with any remarkable speed; the wind was contrary, in going to the Seven Towers; and the badness of the road and pavements obliged me to walk very slowly.

POPULATION.

The population of Constantinople has been as much over-rated as the dimensions. Those who visit only the bazars must fall into a great error; for the appearance in them fully answers the ideas that are commonly entertained of the population. In the upper parts of the town, and in the streets not leading immediately to the markets of merchandize and provisions, there is no bustle, but, in many places, an air of desolation.

In southern climates, as the handicraftsmen work in open shops, a greater proportion of the inhabitants are visible, than with us. In Constantinople, the workshops are generally open to the streets. Considering the stir in Palermo, the height of the buildings, and the huddling manner in which the major part of the inhabitants live there, and comparing them with the appearance, generally, of Constantinople, the structure of the houses, and the domestic economy of the Turks, I am almost inclined to think, that the capital of

Sicily contains ten times the number, to the square mile, that Constantinople does. If there be a million in London and its suburbs, there certainly is not half that number in the whole of the Ottoman metropolis, including Scutari, as well as Galata and Pera, with all the other little dependencies connected with them, but known to the inhabitants by other names.

APPEARANCE OF THE CITY.

The superb distant prospect of Constantinople only serves to render more acute the disappointment, which arises from its interior wretchedness. The streets are filthy, narrow, and darkened by the overhanging houses. Few of the buildings are constructed of stone or brick. The whole habitable town, indeed, may be described, as composed either of lath and plaster or of timber. The appearance of the houses is mean; and many of them are much decayed. The state of the capital accords with the condition and decline of the empire.

Constantinople, seen from the harbour, greatly resembles London, seen from the Thames. If it has no single feature comparable to St. Paul's cathedral, the great moschs are splendid edifices; and the effect of the whole view is greatly superior to any that can be taken of London.

SERAGLIOS.

The grand seraglio of the sultan presents a confused assemblage of objects, houses, domes, trees, and pavilions. Many of the domes are surmounted with gilded ornaments, and the view is very elegant;

but there is no central point of grandeur for the eye to rest on. The spectacle, however, tends to fill the mind with the fictitious images of Oriental pomp.

During my stay in Constantinople, no foreign ambassador had occasion to be presented to the sultan; I had not, therefore, an opportunity of seeing the state apartments; and the ladies having come in from the summer-palace, permission to see the other chambers of the inner court could not be procured. But a gentleman, who once obtained access into the interior of the seraglio, has described the haram to me as consisting of very ordinary apartments. The floor of the principal room was covered with four English Brussels carpets, of different patterns; and, in another, he saw a number of English engravings. But nothing either "rich or strange" seemed to have struck his fancy: I have, therefore, concluded, that it was about as consonant to the town, as the town is to the empire.

The pavilion in which the sultan receives the public visits of the captain pashaw, is not difficult of access. It is a neat little square edifice, surrounded with a colonnade of unpolished marble, and crowned with a dome. It stands on the outside of the ancient embattled wall of the gardens, looking towards Pera. The cieling, between the pillars and the inner building, is divided into quadratures, painted dark blue. The divisions are gilded, and the walls are encrusted with porcelain and marble. Here the sultan reposes on a throne of silver, lulled by the murmur of the sea, the hum of the cities, and the sound of a fountain that plays at his feet.—Notwithstanding all the glitter, and the costly splendour of the throne, few travellers would prefer this pavilion to the temples in the gardens of

Stowe. Nevertheless, it is a work of taste, for it is consistent in all its parts, and the subordination of parts is well preserved; but there is no object presented to the imagination. The guards admitted us, on asking them, as we happened to pass in a boat.

I visited also, with a friend, a summer-palace on the banks of the Lycus, where there is a similar, but less splendid pavilion, and a haram, to which, as we were informed, the late sultan Selim sometimes carried his ladies. As the haram is no longer used, the servants, who had charge of the building, readily admitted us into the apartments. They are, no doubt, much inferior to those of the grand seraglio, but they may be considered as furnishing a criterion by which to judge of them. The mansion itself is lath and plaster, fantastically painted; and the rooms are arranged along the sides of galleries. The interior has more the appearance of an extensive English inn, than of a palace. The apartment, or, as it perhaps should be called, the drawing-room of the principal sultana, is only twenty-one feet long, fifteen broad, and about ten in height. The ornaments were in no other respect remarkable, except in being clumsily carved, and gaudily gilded. I was diverted by the design of a landscape in one of the other chambers. It represented a gulph opening to the ocean. The surface of the sea was covered with boats, and the land adorned with moschs and villages. In the foreground was a stately bridge, through which the waters of the ocean were seen flowing, and tumbling down in foaming cascades. The baths of the ladies are small closets, about ten feet square, rudely paved with unpolished marble, and, so far from being elegant, they scarcely deserve to be called neat.

The grounds round this palace have great "capabilities;" but they are in a slovenly rude state. In the little adornment that art has attempted on them, a flagrant bad taste is evident. The waters of one of the branches of the Lycus are conducted into a straight canal, where they form two cascades, by rushing over a number of marble basons, in the shape of large shells. At each side of the upper of these two waterfalls, stands a little temple, like a parrot's cage, in one of which we saw a Turk, saying his prayers. Below the second cataract, opposite to the windows of the pavilion, four large copper eels, twisted together, seem to have started up in the middle of the stream for the express purpose of spouting water. A Frenchman, I have been told, was the designer of the cascades and the eels.

There are several summer palaces on the banks of the Bosphorus. Taken altogether, the residences of the sultan form a truly imperial establishment: but the art of the landscape-gardener is unknown at Constantinople; and the finest scenery in the world is neither valued nor admired.

BUILDINGS.

The chief moschs are the great ornaments of this capital; but, though stately structures, it is impossible to look at them long without being disposed to think of old-fashioned cupboards, where punch-bowls, turned upside-down, are surrounded with inverted tea-cups, pepper-boxes, and candlesticks.

Mr. Canning having procured a firman, to allow the British travellers to visit the moschs, we assembled early in the morning, and, followed by a crowd of other curious strangers, who availed

themselves of the opportunity, proceeded to the celebrated St. Sophia. I had been there, privately, before; for, by paying five piastres to the door-keepers, strangers may be admitted into the galleries. Though it is pretended that the view from them is greatly inferior to what is seen from the area below, it is still sufficient to satisfy all the common desires of curiosity.

The present exterior of this building has no architectural symmetry. It consists of clumsy buttresses, raised to preserve it from the effects of the earthquakes that have so often threatened it with total ruin; and they conceal the whole of its original form.

The interior, however, is very grand. The dome being shallower than that of St. Paul's, has the appearance of being larger. The supporters of the dome are so arranged, as to make the general effect resemble, in some degree, a vast pavilion; but, as a work of scientific art, the St. Sophia must be considered as a very clumsy structure. The ornaments of the capitals of the columns seem designed rather to imitate feathers than the acanthus, and the native beauty of the marbles is not enriched by any shew of taste or skill. In point of workmanship, it is immensely inferior to Westminster Abbey. Ten thousand men are said to have been employed in the construction of the St. Sophia, and nearly six years were consumed in completing it. The most remarkable of its ornaments are eight columns of red porphyry, which Aurelian placed, originally, in the Temple of the Sun, and eight others of green porphyry, a gift from the magistrates of Ephesus. It is two hundred and sixty-nine feet long, and two hundred and forty-three broad.

From the St. Sophia we went to the mosch of Sultan Achmet, which occupies one side of the ancient hippodrome. In external appearance it greatly excels the other; and the effect of the dim religious light of the stained (not painted) windows, is very fine. We also visited three of the other great moschs; but the uniformity which we found in them soon satiated our curiosity. There is little in these buildings that an artist would think it worth his while to study; and their uniformity was, to me, exceedingly tiresome. At Sultan Soliman's we halted. It is famous for having been the theatre of a terrible uproar, occasioned by the insolence and folly of a Russian ambassador, and the drove that attended him. Presuming on their privilege and protection, without regarding the Turks, who happened, at the time, to be praying, they went about measuring and making a noise, which so provoked the disturbed worshippers, that they rose in a fury, chased them from the mosch, kicking and thrashing the disturbers with an indignation which religious zeal and political animosity combined to heighten. The sultan, on being informed of the affair, sent to the ambassador, and persuaded him to pocket the affront with about fifteen hundred pounds sterling.

SCHOOLS.

As in Christendom during the dark ages, any learning that exists among the Turks, is possessed by the priesthood. The schools attached to the moschs founded by the sultans, may be regarded as institutions similar to the colleges which were formerly connected with the Roman Catholic cathedrals. Several are supported by

revenues arising from certain villages or territorial endowments; but they chiefly depend on allowances from the public income of the state.

In the time of the late Selim, the academies were liberally maintained, and the progress of instruction was rapid; but since the revolution by which he was deposed, the necessities of the government have abridged the maintenance of the public instructors. In the time of Selim, a Switz mathematician, who had been recommended by a British minister, was paid at the rate of five and twenty pounds per month. His salary was afterwards augmented to thirty-five; but the native teachers were never so munificently rewarded. The occasional encouragement of foreign professors of knowledge, seems requisite to the improvement of nations.

HOSPITALS.

There are two hospitals in Pera for the plague; and, in Constantinople, several for ordinary invalids. Except one for the insane, I believe that all the others are supported by the Christians. I visited the Turkish bedlam. The building, on the outside, is plain and simple; but the court, around which the cells are constructed, is built of marble, and the arcades resemble those of the Royal Exchange of London. Never having seen the interior of a mad-house, I was greatly shocked. Several of the patients, almost entirely naked, were fastened by chains fixed to iron collars round their necks, and sat at the grating of their windows, like savage animals in cages. The rooms were cleanly enough; and I could not avoid noticing, that all the patients had learnt to ask money, except one, who appeared to be depraved beyond the power of description to delineate. In one

of the cells, a young man, who was in a state of stupid melancholy, held out his hand instinctively. His face was pale, and his features assumed a slight cast of curiosity when we entered; but there was no speculation in his eyes. One of his friends, who had come to see him, was using a number of artifices to attract his attention; but he continued, regardlessly, to glare. In another cell, we met several ladies, with their slaves and children, diverting themselves at the expence of a merry madman. A young Turk, who was with them, collected paras for the entertainment. A more facetious lunatic, as we passed the door of his room, invited us to enter. His countenance was cheerful, and he professed to be contented.

The physician of this hospital was an old, and, as far as beard served, a venerable personage. He told us, that there were four great classes of insanity, distinguished by their causes:

First, Madness, which came from fevers.

Second, Melancholy, which came from the fires in the city, or other great misfortunes.

Third, Phantasy, which came from wrong conceptions of the imagination.

Fourth, Fits of Delirium, which were produced by the magical devices of enemies.

The first kind of insanity, he assured us, was rarely cured; but the second and third, often and easily. The fourth, however, was incurable, unless the enchanter could be discovered, and obliged to break up his spell!

THE PLAGUE.

When the great population of this town is considered, the narrowness of the streets, the quantity of putrid matter constantly lying in them, and the covered bazars excluding the fresh air, it is not surprizing, in a climate subject, occasionally, to extreme heats, that the inhabitants should often be visited by pestilence. The nature of the plague, as far as I am able to judge, is still very imperfectly known in Turkey. The terror which the very name inspires, is a sufficient proof that few have had the courage to examine it attentively. The infected are shunned with abhorrence, and the dread of the contagion seems to preclude the hope of its effects being properly investigated. The substance of the information that I collected from a person who had endured the disease, and attended the infected for some time, in one of the hospitals, is as follows:

The symptom first perceived by the patient is a painful sensation, resembling the pricking of a lancet, or the sting of an insect. The sensation is so sharp that, if it takes place in sleep, it never fails to awaken the person. Soon after, an obtuse pain is felt in the head, a fever ensues, and, in the course of four and twenty hours, tumours make their appearance in the groin and armpits. If the disease is to prove fatal, the patient never again falls asleep, but the fever and tumours increase till he dies: otherwise, the head-ache and fever abate at the end of the four and twenty hours, and he enjoys repose. Death generally takes place before the suppuration of the tumours: when the suppuration has arrived at maturity, death is not

apprehended; but it is a mistake to suppose that the patient, after recovery, is not again liable to the disease.

There are several kinds of the plague, and only one of them secures the patient from subsequent attacks. Perhaps it would be more correct, to consider this kind as the full developement of the distemper. It is called the King of the Pest, from being attended with a remarkable eruption on the spot where the patient first felt the infection: this name is derived from the eruption, to which, indeed, it is particularly applied. The King makes its appearance at the same time as the tumours, and grows to maturity with them. After suppuration, it protrudes a quantity of corrupted flesh, which is cut off, and which the Greeks preserve, dividing it among their friends, who believe that the wearing of it will secure them from infection. There is no instance of any one dying with the King of the Pest, or of being a second time infected. If ever the disease is to be prevented by inoculation, perhaps it is from the matter of this eruption.

The great preventive of the contagion, is the interruption of intercourse; but there is a species of vinegar, which, when drawn up into the nostrils, is supposed to afford no small degree of security. It is called the vinegar of the four thieves, having been invented by four wretches of Marseilles, who, during the great plague there, entered and plundered the infected houses with impunity. This fact seems to be universally admitted, that strong odours are of great utility in the prevention of the disease; the obvious inference from which is, that proper fumigations would reduce its violence. Fruits

and humid substances, do not retain or communicate the infection; but all dry substances, and living animals, convey it; and the latter are liable, themselves, to the disease, the symptoms and progress of which are similar to those which take place on the human subject. In the course of the malady, the patient must carefully abstain from gross food of every kind, and also from crude fruits, living sparingly, on the most meagre diet.

BARRACKS.

The barracks of the janizaries, and of the sailors, are large and handsome buildings, equal, both in appearance and neatness, to any in England. The arsenals are also worth seeing, although they do not furnish any thing for a descriptive pen. The dry dock was constructed, in the reign of the late Selim, by a Swedish engineer, who was, at the time, liberally encouraged; but has since been neglected. In the dock-yard I saw a number of Russian prisoners employed on the public works. Would it not be more truly humane, for the nations of Christendom, instead of cooping up prisoners of war in castles and guardships, to turn their strength to some account; preserving in this a just respect for the differences of rank and station. I did not hear that the Turks exacted from their prisoners any extraordinary labour; but, on the contrary, I was told, that, having divided them into bands, the divisions alternately relieved each other.

THE BRITISH PALACE.

Among the public buildings of this capital, the residence of the British minister is one of the most conspicuous. It stands in a

large inclosure, that might be converted into something like a pleasure ground; and, both in the external and internal architecture, resembles an English manorial mansion. The chief expense of this edifice was defrayed by the Ottoman government, in commemoration of the delivery of Egypt. It may, therefore, as such, be considered as a monument of a splendid and magnanimous transaction.

Among the many aggressions of the French, the seizure of Egypt is considered not the least. But, here, it is generally allowed, that they actually had permission for the invasion. Complaints had been made, by the Directory, of insults and hardships which the French merchants had suffered from the governors of Egypt; and the government here excused itself, by alleging the rebellious state of the province. It was not till after the battle of the Nile, that the Turks considered the invasion of Egypt as an aggression, or thought of war.

BAZARS.

The Bazars are of great length, commonly about twenty feet in width, lighted from the roof, with recesses on each side, in which the merchandize is displayed. Each recess is a shop, and the handsomest are surmounted with little domes. The shopkeepers sit cross-legged, on platforms, in front of their goods. The platforms serve also for counters. In many of the bazars the shops have small ware-rooms behind. The Greek and Armenian merchants retire to their private houses before sunset; the Turks generally earlier; and the gates are closed before dark.

The bazars, for the most part, are the property of companies, who let out the shops to the merchants. Several belong to the government, and are farmed by individuals and companies.

The roofs of two or three of the bazars are supported by pillars, the relics of the ancient forum and porticos. In looking along these colonnades, I was reminded of the appearance of the long vistas of pillars which Wood and Dawkins have given in their views of Palmyra; and which are, probably, the ruins of her bazars, and not the remains of temples and palaces. The capital of Zenobia owed its magnificence to commerce. Situated at a convenient distance, between the gulf of Persia and the Mediterranean, it was the grand resort of the caravans which conveyed the oriental luxuries to the Roman nations.

In the midst of the deserts, and under a scorching sun, the inhabitants of Palmyra must have had recourse to artificial shades. Through all these southern and eastern countries, the practice of arranging the shops under sheds, and in bazars, is so universal, that it cannot be doubted to have prevailed in Palmyra.

Strangers, from the appearance in the bazars, are apt to be as much deceived with respect to the riches of this capital, as with the population. A vast quantity of opened merchandize is at once presented to the eye; for a bazar is a great ware-room, in which the stocks of many appear as the property of one. People accustomed to the detached shops of London, large and opulent as they are, cannot pass, for the first time, through the bazars of Constantinople, without an emotion of surprize; but, when, in subsequent visits, the shops are considered individually, and the probable value of their

contents is estimated, with the number of persons apparently interested in them, the stock will be found, comparatively very small.

The bazar of the jewellers is one of the places where the erroneous impression of Ottoman wealth is most likely to be deepest made. On applying for a trinket, the stranger is immediately beset by a crowd, exhibiting their glittering temptations in so many various forms, that the visions of Aladdin seem realizing before him. Golden coffee cups, encrusted with diamonds and rubies, a whole spring of flowers made of the same gorgeous gems, and stars sufficient to furnish out another hemisphere, are displayed in rapid succession. If none of the patterns please, the Brazils and Golconda seem to shower their unset jewels for selection. But, though all this is much superior to the exhibition of any one shop in London, yet, when it is considered, that a single coffee cup, a star, and a flower, with two or three loose diamonds, constitute the whole stock of the most respectable lapidary, the delusion vanishes, and the stranger is more apt to wonder how so many people can live by the trade, than to admire the multitude of the riches. Constantinople has nothing comparable to the shops of the silversmiths in London.

The bazar appropriated for the sale of military accoutrements is said to be the richest in the city; and I was told, that the merchants belonging to it have certain special corporate privileges. When any of them die, the fortune of the deceased is given out at interest among the members of the society, until his children are capable of judging for themselves; and the society, as a body, is responsible for the capital, and payment of the interest.

ANTIQUITIES.

In so great a city as Constantinople, and which has suffered less from its conquerors than is generally thought, there cannot but be many curious remains, that travellers neither hear of nor have opportunities of seeing. Without attempting to make discoveries, I contented myself with endeavouring to procure access to the most remarkable of those that are best known.

Of the hippodrome, only three of the ornaments that decorated the middle of the area remain. The most eminent is the obelisk of granite, which still rests on four blocks of bronze, on a pedestal of white marble, adorned with bas reliefs. The hieroglyphics on the obelisk, who shall explain? The bas reliefs seem to represent, or rather, as it might be expressed, to reflect the appearance of the theatre when filled with spectators. On the basement of the pediment, there is the representation of a spectacle of the circus.

Near the obelisk stands the column of the brazen serpents, which anciently supported the golden tripod consecrated to the Oracle of Delphos after the defeat of Xerxes. When Mahomet the Second made his triumphal entry into Constantinople, it is said that, as he passed along under this well-authenticated fragment of antiquity, he shattered, with his battle-axe, the jaw of one of the serpents. All their heads have since been broken off.

About as far from the serpents as they are distant from the Egyptian obelisk, stands another obelisk, which was formerly covered with bas-reliefs in bronze. The apex overhangs the base; and it is evidently doomed to fall soon. In height and appearance

it resembles the obelisk, near the Circus, in St. George's Fields, London.

The Burnt Column stands on the spot where, during the siege of Byzantium, stood the tent of Constantine, the founder of the present city. The Forum, which anciently surrounded it, is described to have been elliptical, the porticos ornamented with images, and the gates built in the form of triumphal arches: but not a vestige of this forum remains. The pillar, in a mutilated state, still serves as a kind of central object to several streets. The base is concealed by mean buildings. It was originally surmounted with a statue of the emperor Justinian, and covered with bronze, which the Turks melted down for cannon, by kindling a fire round the shaft. Hence the origin of the present name.

I have seen two of the great cisterns constructed for supplying the city antiently with water. The one, which the Turks call by a name descriptive of a thousand and one pillars, is dry, and occupied by silk-twisters. It is a vast subterranean building. The roof is sustained by a triple tier of pillars, as I was told; but only the third, and part of the second tiers, are above the earth. The other cistern is more magnificent, but not so easy of access, as it is under the house and gardens of a Pashaw. Although the vaulting, in several places, has fallen in, it still serves to collect the water from the aqueduct. Many of the pillars that support the roof have evidently been hewn for other purposes than to be sunk in water. They may be the relics of the ancient temples of Byzantium.

The aqueduct, which brings the main supply of water to Constantinople, is a solid and stately fabric. It passes through the city

like a great artery, from which the pipes of the public fountains proceed in ramifications like veins. It was originally planned by Adrian, for the use of Byzantium, and bore his name till repaired by Valens. Justinian took away part of the lead for other buildings; and, in the reign of Heraclius, it suffered still greater injuries. Soliman the Magnificent rebuilt it almost entirely; and, since his time, it has not been neglected.

The ancients, from their preference to aqueducts over pipes, are thought, by some, to have been ignorant that water rises as high as its source. But this is an opinion entertained without reflection: for, although they employed open aqueducts to convey water into their cities, yet, in the distribution, they, undoubtedly, made use of pipes. We are told, that the air, in the amphitheatre of Titus, was frequently refreshed by the playing of fountains; and that the baths of Nero were supplied by pipes of silver. It is ridiculous to imagine, that either pipes, or playing fountains, could have been in use, without the natural fact of the tendency of water being discovered and known. It was the difficulty of bringing an adequate supply, in any other way than by aqueducts, that gave rise to the practice of the ancients. What kind of pipe would serve to furnish Constantinople with water?

The fortifications of Constantinople are in ruins. The walls may be described as ragged; for, in several places, towards the sea, large holes are worn or washed in them. The walls, against which the attack of Mahomet the Second was directed, still shew traces of Babylonish grandeur. They consist of a ditch, and three successive platforms. The inner wall is a lofty curtain, with tall towers at

regular distances. In walking along the outside, when making the circuit of the city, its appearance suggested to me some idea of the wall of China, as it is described running over mountains and across valleys. As efforts of labour, or of skill, the works round Constantinople are but Liliputian undertakings compared to those of Malta; but, in point of picturesque effect, few will hesitate to prefer them. The fortifications of Constantinople, towards the land, may, without much stretch of fancy, be compared to an army of old giants drawn up in order of battle; terrible in their aspect, but inefficient and frail.

I went to the gate of the castle of the seven towers; but, not having an order, could not obtain permission to enter. This grim and tremendous prison presented a very harmless appearance. The portal was surrounded with a flock of impudent boys belonging to a school which is kept within the walls. Except when they find their tasks wearisome, no other captives at present languish there.

ARTS AND MANUFACTURES.

I have not been able to learn that the Turks have any arts or manufactures which may be considered as peculiarly their own; but, as every separate civilized community generally excel in the manipulation of some one particular thing at least, the Turks have, no doubt, also, their masterpiece. In the making of tobacco-pipes they certainly as much excel us, as they exceed us in the use of them; but this is an excellence rather granted than the result of superior skill. The boring of a straight stick never can be considered as a difficult process; far less as one that our mechanics

would conceive it necessary to study. Many of their pipes are costly; and, as far as such simple instruments can be made elegant, are entitled to that epithet. The bowl, formed with much neatness; the mouth-piece, of amber, sometimes ornamented with jewels; and the shaft, varying from two to ten feet long, make up a utensil of some degree of beauty, and of which a correct enough notion may be formed by this description.

The finest bowls of the pipes are made of a natural kind of earth, dug up near Konie, the ancient Iconium in Natolia. It is found in a fissure, six feet wide, and is of a grey calcareous appearance. It sweats if thrown into the fire; produces a fœtid vapour; grows hard, and becomes perfectly white. The fresh earth dissolves in no acid. When burnt, it can be acted upon only by nitrous acid; but not until the solution has been continued a considerable time in heat, and then it loses nearly a third part of its weight. When water is poured on the pure solution, it becomes a little muddy; and, when it is suffered to evaporate entirely, a bitter salt, easy of solution, is obtained. The undissolved earth, fused in a strong fire, is converted into a brown slag. The fresh earth remains in water unchanged; and, when it has been mixed with it, by shaking and stirring, falls again to the bottom, loses its cohesion, and cannot be again used. The earth, after being burnt, imbibes a large quantity of water, throws out abundance of air bubbles, and becomes soft.

The Turks perform their handicraft operations sitting. Their machinery is very rude; but they make up, in knack and dexterity,

for the want of more ingenious aids. At their turning-lathes, they employ their toes to guide the chisel; and, in these pedipulations, shew to Europeans a diverting degree of address.

The tints of the colours produced by the dyers of Constantinople, have long been justly admired, and never yet excelled, by ours. Whether this superiority arises from any secret in the preparation of the colours, or only from possessing richer materials, I am not sufficiently instructed to determine. They have, however, one colour, which is not yet known, at least not made, by any of our dyers. It resembles, in brightness and beauty, the scarlet extracted from the cochineal. It differs from the well-known Turkey red, in having a tendency rather towards yellow than to crimson, and it is much more brilliant. In producing this dye, the juice of lemons and citrons is, in some way, employed, in order, I imagine, to lower the common tinge of the madder. In what stage of the process the vegetable acid is used, I did not learn; possibly, before mixing the blood with the root, the root may be steeped in it. To shew that, in producing the common Turkey red, no such ingredient is employed, I have given, in the Appendix, all the published information relative to that dye.

The Turkish dyers extract a beautiful orange tincture from a root, resembling ginger in its appearance; the root, I believe, of the saf-flower. They obtain also a brown, from the wood of the walnut-tree, by a very simple process. The chips are steeped three days in water, which is then changed. The steeping is repeated three times; and the chips and third water are boiled with the silk or cotton. In proportion to the hue required, the boiling is shortened or prolonged.

By a similar process, a golden yellow is extracted from the skin of the pomegranate; and the peel of the onion also furnishes a beautiful but deeper degree of the same colour.

We may surpass the Armenian chintz-printers in the patterns, but they are fully our masters in other respects. There is a softness in the effect of their blocks, that I think more likely to be admired in competition, than the clear exact lines with which our designs are finished. They wash their printed calicoes in sea water, in order to cleanse them from a gum which is used in the preparation of the colours, and which, they say, fresh water would not so effectually remove. They have a method of painting muslins, by tracing them with the pencil over drawings, which produces an effect greatly superior to that of printing. It is chiefly handkerchiefs that they ornament in this way; and they render them of great value. I have seen squares of muslin not worth ten shillings, raised in value, by the labour of the painters, to upwards of a hundred. I believe we do not practise this art. The Armenians obtain their best patterns and blocks from France, or from French artists.

A manufactory of muslins has been established in Constantinople. The yarns, of late used, are, chiefly, the British cotton yarns. There is nothing to admire in the productions; but the fact of the establishment is worth noticing. In their silk and cotton stuffs, striped and clouded, the Ottoman subjects, I think, shew a great deal of taste, and the excellence of their colours is seen in full effect.

The looms of Scutari produce several very rich and elaborate kinds of velvet for sophas and furniture; but, both in this article,

and in brocades, the Turks are, undoubtedly, inferior to the French and Italians; less, however, in the beauty of the workmanship, than in the variety and character of the patterns. Though the Turks have declined from their military consequence, their progress in the arts of civil life has continued. Throughout the world, generally, the private condition of mankind has mended since the conquest of Constantinople. It is certain, that the different countries of Europe are becoming more and more independent of the manufactures and productions of one another.

COFFEE HOUSES.

When Henry Blount, one of our earliest publishing travellers, visited Constantinople in the year 1634, the coffee-houses, he observes, abounded more than alehouses and inns in England. At that time coffee was unknown in the west of Europe. "It is thought," says he, "to be the old black broth, used so much by the Lacedemonians, and dryeth ill humours in the stomacke, comforteth the brain, never causeth drunkennesse, or any other surfeit, and is a harmless entertainment of good fellowship." But, as a Scotchman, I am more inclined to believe that the Lacedemonian black broth was made of singed sheep-heads; because, even at this day, the Greeks are in the practice of singing their sheep-heads and feet; a custom which does equal credit to their taste and œconomy!

The descriptions and estimates of the Turkish character by Blount appear to me correct and just. He mixed with the people, and acquired a familiar insight into their manners, which he has described with much felicitous brevity. Whatever he mentions as

having observed himself, is still applicable to the nation. The coffee-houses have undergone little alteration since 1634; and his description of the way in which the Turks pass their time in them is still a faithful picture. "There, upon scaffolds, half a yard high, and covered with mats, they sit crosse-legg'd, many times two or three hundred together, talking, and likely with some poore musicke passing up and down."

WOMEN.

The state of the women in Turkey is one of the greatest curiosities which the empire affords. Accustomed to hear and to read of their secluded apartments, and the danger and difficulty of obtaining access to them, I was rather surprized to find, in fact, much less difference in their condition from that of our own females, than I thought reconcilable to the doctrines of Mahomet.

It must always be held in mind, that the Turks are a singularly grave people; that they have no public amusements which the women frequent; and that even their meals are regarded, in some sort, with religious solemnity. This sedate decorum is not favourable to the liberty of the lighter sex; and the institutes of the religion, by prescribing limits to those with whom the women may unveil their faces, imposes a restraint apparently as strong as that which seems to be the result of the natural taciturnity of the men. Still, however, considering the state of society in the country, the women cannot be regarded as stinted in their freedom; and the uniformity with which they dress, when they go abroad, furnishes the licentious with abundant opportunities of indulgence. No re-

striction is laid on their intercourse with each other; and I question if Scandal be less eloquently worshipped in the harams of Constantinople, than in the boudoirs and drawing-rooms of Paris and London. The Turkish ladies freely frequent the shops, and chat with the mercers, undervaluing the gaudy commodities on which their hearts and eyes are set, with as many contemptuous tosses and accents as the best bargain-makers in Christendom.

Nor are they without their due share of individual consequence and dignity, notwithstanding the polygamy which the husbands are allowed. The second person in the state, corresponding in rank to the Christian queens, is the Sultana mother. Her public officers are grandees of the first class; and her annual revenue is fully eighty thousand pounds sterling. Next to her, in degree, are the sisters of the Sultan; deriving this eminence from the double consideration of being daughters and sisters of sovereigns. Next to them are the daughters of the Sultan, &c. The wives of the Grand Signior are not dignified with the title of Sultana; nor, whatever may be their personal influence, are they considered of the same political consequence, unless they happen to be immediately of the imperial blood. The etiquette of the seraglio furnishes the rule for estimating the condition of the sex among the Turks.

Turks may marry the sisters of their wives, but not more than one at a time. Younger brothers may marry the widows of their elder, but the elder are not permitted to marry those of the younger. Elder brothers enjoy a superior rank, approximating to that of fathers. They are permitted to see the faces of the wives of the younger.

Divorces in Turkey may take place, at any time, by mutual consent; but, whenever the husband repudiates the wife, he is obliged to bestow on her a provision proportioned to his circumstances. Divorces are recorded in the same Chancery in which marriages are registered. Adultery is a capital offence.

The women are not permitted to frequent the public moschs. But there are priestesses, who go from house to house on the purposes of religion, and who serve, in all respects, the duties of male ecclesiastics; an arrangement more delicate than that of the Roman and Greek churches.

The separation of the women from the men in the temples is an ancient Asiatic custom. Mahomet only exalted the principle into a religious obligation. The ordinance is founded on a correct apprehension of human nature. There can be no doubt that the decorum of Christian congregations would be improved if the sexes were separated in the churches.

The custom of allotting to the women a separate part of the house, though now peculiar only to the professors of the principles of Mahomet, was general over all Europe, till the middle of the fifteenth century; and the ancient domestic arrangement of the Greeks differed in nothing from that of their present masters *.

" L'Asiatique construit son harem comme l'ancien Grec son gynécée, dans le lieu le plus reculé de l'edifice, et le plus soustrait aux regards."

Villers' Coup d'oeil sur l'estat actuel de la litterature ancienne, et de l'Histoire en Allemagne, page 10.

POLICE.

One of the earliest observations that I was led to make on the state of Turkey induced me to think, that the great defect, in the Ottoman system of rule, arose from the excess of liberty which it allowed to individuals. Subsequent information and experience have convinced me of the correctness of this notion. The laws of the state admit of too free a delegation of the sovereign power; and the precepts of the religion of too great a scope to the passions and propensities of individuals. By the one, opportunities are afforded for tampering with the administration of public justice; and, by the other, crimes come to be regarded rather as the effects of in-born frailty than of moral reprobation. Hence there is both a laxity in the administration of public justice, and a disposition to extenuate offences. It might be said, that the former was an effect of the latter, were the Mahomedan law not as express, with respect to crimes and punishments, as it is on the doctrine of predestination. The insufficient state of the police of Turkey I regard as the effect of the military nature of the institutions of the empire. These institutions are greatly fallen from their original vigour; and the police has, in the same degree, become impaired.

As states improve in their domestic œconomy, the generality of mankind are apt to imagine, from the number of criminals brought to punishment, that society grows worse. But the multitude of detected criminals is rather the proof of an improved police than of an increased moral depravity. In England we hear of more various descriptions of delinquents than in any other country; but what man,

in his senses, will say, that crimes, in more barbarous communities, are less numerous? Are the offences of Constantinople less numerous than those of London, although fewer be heard of, and still fewer punished? The police of this metropolis may be described as formed rather for the purpose of restraining mobs, and quelling riots, than for bringing culprits to justice. It is a military police, calculated to restrain offences against the government rather than against the individual members of society.

SOCIETY.

Of the general state of society, in so great a capital as Constantinople, it would be excessive presumption, in any traveller, from his own observations, to pretend to give an account; and a British traveller, less than any other, can feel himself justified, by what he derives from the knowledge of his countrymen settled here, to speak, with confidence, on the subject. It is matter of old and notorious fact, that the British, if they find companions of their own nation, will, in no country whatever, seek the society of the natives. The character of the present war has strengthened this peculiarity. The French, and the different subaltern subjects of their emperor, dare not, without incurring vexatious suspicions, mix with the British; and the British are little disposed to condescend to mix with them. The whole varieties of the Frank society, with the exception of the half a dozen gentlemen who compose our Embassy and Levant factory, may be considered as under the snub and controul of the French minister. The British traveller, therefore, with respect to the Franks, finds himself an excluded being.

The habits and modes of the Turks are so much at variance with ours, that we visit them with the same kind of sentiments that we go to an exhibition. As for the Greeks, it is not possible for any man bred in Christendom, far less one bred in Britain, to endure long their interested obsequiousness, their invidious strictures on each other, and their still more intolerable assumption of superiority over all the rest of mankind, under the most flagrant ignorance and credulity.

But, undoubtedly, the society of this metropolis is more vicious than that of any in Christendom. Before the conquest, the inhabitants of Constantinople consisted of the collected rubbish of a falling empire, destitute of public principle, and in the licentious practice of all the frauds and vices which disgrace capital cities. The political inferiority, to which they were reduced by their conquerors, was not calculated to purify their manners, but, on the contrary, to instigate them to attain additional dexterity in their crimes. Among the descendants of the ancient inhabitants we may, therefore, expect to find an hereditary laxity of private morality, and public feeling in a state of reprobation. And that such is the fact, who, that has ever visited Constantinople, can deny? Foreigners, early settled in the country, cease to wonder at what is so common; but strangers are filled with amazement and disgust. There is not a Greek, not even one of those employed in the affairs of the state, that does not daily utter sentiments, which, even in England, where opinion is so freely tolerated, would be punished as the most dangerous sedition. Under a despotic government this appears almost incredible; but there is another fact still more extraordinary, and

which I assert with the most perfect assurance. The great officers and confidential persons of the state are, in the practice of communicating to merchants those secret movements of policy, which, when publicly divulged, affect the price of commodities, expressly in order to obtain a share in the profit of the speculations undertaken in consequence. All the promotions to public trusts, except those which originate immediately in the personal predilections of the sovereign, are obtained by the most corrupt means. So grossly and generally is this the case, that, perhaps, with the single exception of those provinces under the Albanian Ali Pashaw, there is no governorship in Turkey, of which the appointment may not be procured by money. The secret history of the Christian principalities of Wallachia and Moldavia, is a satire, from the publication of which human nature has been spared.

THE SULTAN.

Sultan Mahmoud is universally allowed to possess an inflexible mind; and, though only about thirty years of age, to display as much practical talent and knowledge of mankind as his counsellors. His complexion is pale, his eye thoughtful and penetrating, and his physiognomy indicates a reserved nature; but there is a melancholy cast, in the general expression of his countenance, that is interesting, and rather, I think, conciliating.

Since his accession, his attention has been directed to, as he conceives, the means of recovering the former authority and power of the Sultans. But the world is changed. Instead of seeking the restoration of that awful obedience, with which the firmans of

his ancestors were executed like divine fiats, his efforts might be more fruitfully employed on some new plan of rule better adapted to the state of opinion among his subjects. To cure the corruptions of the government is impossible; and the last of the Ottomans, by his individual attempts, is, perhaps, only accelerating his own doom.

The original political system of the Turks was purely military. By the conquest of Constantinople, they were induced to accept into it some of the practices and rules of the rotten government which they had overthrown; and being not only heterogeneous, but radically pernicious, they have tended, more than the operation of time, to impair the simplicity and vigour of the Ottoman institutions. The Turks not only agreed to preserve and protect the Greek church, but endowed the patriarchs with a juridical authority, which they did not possess under the emperors. The Greek church, as it affects men in their business and bosoms, is a cancer in the constitution of Turkey. The medium by which the government derives its knowledge of foreign politics, and of the disposition of seven eighths at least of its European subjects, is formed by members of that bigoted, superstitious, and fraudulent community.

The Turks can no longer be regarded as a military nation; nor, by the nature of things, can the spirit which animated their ancestors, be recalled. The system which the Sultan has adopted may be regarded not only as founded in an erroneous conception of the moral and political state of his own empire, but also of that of the world. To aim at the introduction of discipline among his troops cannot but be esteemed laudable; but, attempting to accomplish

this by the espionnage of familiars, and the rapid and mysterious execution of orders for exile or death, deserves another name.

Mahmoud is constitutionally religious. He is said to have an unsuspecting faith in the eternal and triumphant destiny which Mahomet promised to his successors. In the traditions and tales which he has heard, as the histories of his nation, it is not likely that he was informed, that his ancestors were neither descendants nor successors of the prophet; although this notion seems to have acquired unimpairable credit in the minds of the Turks.

About the end of the thirteenth century, Othman, a pastoral chieftain, with a camp of four hundred families, inhabited the banks of the Sangar, near Surgut. Situated so near the skirts of the Greek empire, then in helpless decrepitude, he saw her weakness, and his religion sanctified an attack. On the twenty-ninth of July, in the year twelve hundred and ninety-nine, he invaded the territory of Nicomedia. From that epoch may be dated the commencement of his reign, which lasted twenty-seven years. Every day added something to his fame or his power, and his career was closed with the conquest of Brusa, by his son Orchan.

Orchan instituted the office of grand vizier, decorated Brusa with magnificent edifices, and formed a regular body of infantry. He conquered Nice, and the whole of the ancient kingdom of Bithynia, as far as the shores of the Hellespont. The emperor of Constantinople was induced to give him his daughter in marriage; but notwithstanding that Orchan engaged, in asking her for his haram, to fulfil the duties of a subject and a son, he shortly after passed the Hellespont, and took possession of the European fortresses.

Amurath I. succeeded him; and subduing Thrace, made Adrianople his capital. In his time the famous corps of the janizaries was instituted. He was assassinated while walking over a field of battle, by a Sclavonian soldier, who started up from among the wounded and the dead, and stabbed him in the belly.

His son, the renowned Bajazet, surnamed, by the rapidity and terror of his career, the Thunderbolt, was the first of the Ottoman line, or the race of Othman, who received the title of sultan.

It is needless to trace the genealogy further down. From him Mahmoud is descended. It is remarkable, that, notwithstanding the boundless polygamy allowed to the sultans, Mahmoud is the last of his family; and on the throne, at a time when the concurring opinion of the world is, that the Turks must speedily abandon their European empire.

Among various anecdotes that I have heard of Mahmoud, the following, as tending to illustrate his character, and the condition of the state, are the most worthy of being repeated. When about to mount his horse, in order to be inaugurated, the chief of the janizaries, according to the duty of his office, advanced to hold the stirrup. "Let it alone," said the sultan, "I ought rather to hold yours."

Hearing lately that there was a seditious murmuring among the janizaries, he went secretly at night to the quarters of the officers, and calling them before him, said, that he was informed of their mutinous spirit, and to take care that he heard no more of it. For the time this decisive conduct produced the desired effect.

When the fleet returned last winter, from the Black sea, it came

in unexpectedly. The sultan, fearing that there had been a battle. went at midnight in his barge to satisfy himself.

There is another anecdote told of him of a different complexion. An itinerant showman had a buffoon, whom he used to dress and exhibit to the Turks, as a speaking bear. The sultan, hearing of so surprising an animal, commanded it to be brought to the palace. He appeared highly amused, and requested the keeper to sell it; this, however, the keeper managed to refuse; his majesty then desired that it might be left for a day or two for his amusement, and he ordered it to be placed in a cage among his other wild beasts, where it was offered no food, but only raw heads and bloody bones, for three days, at the end of which the bear was dismissed.

JANIZARIES.

From the time of Orchan, the Ottoman chiefs were persuaded that their military government required the support of a standing army; and that the recruits ought to be drawn from the hardy athletic inhabitants of Europe.

As by the Mahomedan law, the sovereign is entitled to the fifth part of the spoil and captives, Amurath I. by the possession of the fortresses of the Hellespont, was enabled to carry the opinion of Orchan into successful effect. He stationed officers at Gallipoli, to intercept the Christian vessels, passing to and from Constantinople, in order to take from them, the stoutest and handsomest youths.

The captives were educated in the religion, and disciplined to the arms of the Turks. Those most conspicuous for talents or beauty were drafted for the service of the imperial palace. The alert were

taught the arts of horsemanship and military tactics, while the studious were instructed in the precepts of the Koran, and in the Persian and Arabic languages. As they advanced in seniority and merit, they were appointed to civil, military, and even to ecclesiastical employments. At a mature period of experience and knowledge, they were admitted into the number of the forty Agas, that stand before the sultan; and many of them, by caprice or esteem, were promoted to the government of provinces, and the highest offices in the empire.

For maintaining the number and spirit of this corps, the most extraordinary and detestable species of tyranny was invented. When the regal fifth of the prisoners was diminished, or inadequate to supply the requisite number, an inhuman conscription of every fifth child, or in every fifth year, was levied on the christian families. At the age of twelve or fourteen, the most robust youths were impressed, considered as the slaves of the state, and disciplined for the public service.

But, like every other part of the system and frame of the Turkish government, the constitution of the janizaries has become thoroughly and incurably corrupted. Instead of being considered as constituting a military corps, the janizaries ought now to be described, as an order of rank in the state, with high exclusive privileges; receiving pensions without rendering service, arrogating to themselves the power of dictating to the sovereign what measures of policy he ought to adopt, and of convincing him that he reigns but by their permission. It is only in the gradations of rank, and in the spirit of their incorporation, that they have any thing military about them. They practice no exercises; and by far the greater number are mere

civil citizens; pursuing their crafts and professions as soberly as the livery of London. It is no longer necessary to have recourse to the ancient means of recruiting. Fathers, for the pay, are anxious to get their sons on the lists; and the dignity of a janizary threatens to become hereditary. I have seen them lining the streets during the processions of the sultan; a great proportion were boys, and many had the crooked spine, and squalid face of sedentary industry.

BRITISH LEGATION.

Constantinople possesses one curiosity, interesting, above all others, to the British traveller; and that is, the British Legation. In venturing to state my opinion of an institution that has existed so long, and which has been subject to the scrutiny of men, deservedly esteemed for their talents and public spirit, it is necessary to mention, plainly, that I hate the interference of foreigners of all descriptions and classes whatsoever, in any of those national affairs, which affect the national character. In matters of policy, connected with other states, it is necessary to consult the ministers of those states, but only to consult. To submit any part of the British means to their controul and guidance, without some reason, by which an important local advantage is gained, is an absurdity, so great, in my opinion, that I but feebly express my feeling, when I say that I view it with hatred.

The British Legation at the Sublime Porte consists of two departments, which may be called the Deliberative, and the Executive.

The Deliberative is composed of the minister and the secretaries, who come from England; and the Executive is formed of the interpreters, who are natives of the country, and subjects of the sultan. The former consists of persons, almost, necessarily, ignorant of the usages of the Ottoman government; the latter, of persons both theoretically and practically ignorant of the British government; and, what is of more consequence, of the British spirit. There never was an interpreter employed by the British nation in Constantinople, that knew even what is meant by the term. From the time of the first mission, in the reign of queen Elizabeth, down to the period of the last appointment, possibly there may have been exceptions, in the qualifications of the ministers, to the full amount of what I have said about the Deliberative branch of the Legation. To this extent the statement may be qualified, but no farther.

With the ministers of the sultan, the British minister can hold no direct intercourse. He cannot utter one syllable of representation, nor write one word of remonstrance; and the interpreters, in fact, explain it as we will, are the representatives of the British nation in Constantinople. These interpreters belong to that inferior class of the Ottoman subjects who consider themselves as slaves. Their political condition is so vile, that we have not, in all the three kingdoms, any class of persons in the same degree of degradation. But names are nothing in business, and we should consider the matter practically.

It is true, that neither the grand signor, nor the grand vizier, will probably ever be so unpolite as to strike off the head of our prin-

cipal interpreter *, for presenting to him the sense only of any remonstrance which our Deliberative may have occasion to make; and also, it is true, that a man so highly trusted as the head of our Executive in Constantinople, may be so well rewarded, that the insolence of property will overcome the pusillanimity of slavery; all this may be true, but what is the fact? The principal interpreter, that is, the operative representative of the king, had not, till lately, the income of the ambassador's valet. To Mr. Adair, the interpreters owe the improvement of their circumstances; and a motive is now furnished, in the emoluments, to students of our own nation, to aspire to the situation, if they be not, at present, systematically excluded.

THE BOSPHORUS.

I made an excursion to Belgrade, Booyookderie, and Tarapia, in order to see the aqueducts and the Bosphorus. The bridges fully equalled the description which we had received of their extent and grandeur; the whole jaunt proved one of the pleasantest passages in my travels. The woody environs of Belgrade are full of recluse sylvan retreats, but the village has only its situation, and the embellishments of lady Mary Montague's fancy, to recommend it. Booyookderie, however, is a lively and elegant place. It stands on the banks of the Bosphorus, a few miles from the entrance to the Black sea; and many of the houses having been built by foreign ministers, and Frank merchants, it has quite the aspect of a European

* On the 2d of November, 1708, the interpreter to the English embassy was condemned to death, by the grand vizier, on account of his religious opinions, and was only saved from martyrdom by a recantation.

town. Tarapia stands on the same place where the Pharmacia of the ancients was situated. It was here that Medea collected the herbs which she employed in her chemistry, and the air is still deemed favourable for the restoration of health. The adventures of Jason and Medea are well known; but the fable of the golden fleece is still a mystery, that has baffled all literary explanation. Could the object of the Argonauts have been the Angora goats, the beautiful fleeces of which, both by their value and natural colour, justify the appellation of golden?

NICOMEDIA.

I made an excursion with a friend into Asia, as far as Kirpi, on the shores of the Black sea. We left Constantinople in a small vessel, belonging to Nicomedia, which city, after a pleasant sail, we reached on the following morning. The people belonging to the vessel were all Turks, who, in their conduct towards us, and in their behaviour to each other, presented a striking contrast to what we should have seen in Greeks. They treated us with the utmost respect, and did not seem to interest themselves, in any way, about our objects. Had they been Greeks, the very ship boy, in half the time, would have shewn that he was well aware of our barbarian inferiority; and the whole crew, as far as replies to their questions served, would have conceived themselves circumstantially informed of every thing that concerned us. The Turks, among themselves, shewed all their national ceremonious gravity. Their coffee was distributed with as much regularity as at the audience of a vizier, although the vessel was, probably, not more than thirty tons burden.

For ourselves, three servants, and a Tartar, we paid about four guineas for ship-room. East of Malta it is not the custom to pay for fare, so that although, in the outset of a voyage, the expense does not appear considerable, yet, travelling in Turkey, is much more expensive than in England.

On our landing at Nicomedia, we were invited, by the farmer of the customs, to drink coffee in the custom-house, while the Tartar went to the governor to exhibit our firmans, and to procure us an order for lodgings. This gentleman proved to us a polite and useful acquaintance. He invited us to stay in his house; and on our declining, as we had sent to the governor, he ordered a dinner to be prepared, which he sent in the evening to our lodgings. He also gave us a letter to his son, who lived at Hagi-Ku, a village, where he had his principal house. He was in Ismail when it was taken by Suworow. Altogether he was rather an extraordinary Turk; and, in his manners, a well-bred man. In the evening we paid him a visit, and found his house as much superior, in point of neat elegance, to the common style of Turkish houses, as his own manners were to those of his countrymen.

We met with no adventures in our journey to Kirpi. Our firmans secured us all the respect that we could desire, and we found the inhabitants of the country, who are Turks, an industrious and blameless people. The land was well cultivated and inclosed, and, here and there, the trees in the hedges, gave it a strong resemblance to the face of England. The villages were numerous, the cottages were built of wood, and raised from the ground on piles, the under part serving for the stable or cow house. The utensils for

the husbandry were also respectable. We saw ploughs, on the low deep soils, with wheels, and drawn by six and eight oxen. The labour was neatly performed. The hay-stacks attracted our notice, as being adapted for the climate. A large pole was fixed upright, and the hay, loosely laid round it, was well thatched on the top. I conceive that this arrangement was for the purpose of preventing it from heating; and also to enable the stack to resist the violence of the winds. My friend, who had travelled a good deal, both in America and on the continent of Europe, said that he had never seen, out of our own island, any tract of country of so pleasant an aspect. Both the inhabitants and the land appeared to be in a highly prosperous state. But, in Asia, the Turks are at home, and are, both in their habits and manners, very different from their European fellow-subjects.

The land is still the property of the sovereign, or, as I am disposed to say, the fiefs have not yet become hereditary. Turkey in Europe furnishes an idea of something like our notions of the feudal state of Christendom; but here, every thing contributes to transport the imagination back to the epoch of Charlemagne. The governors of districts, who hold from the pashaw, are entitled to claim no more than the tenth part of the agricultural produce: and a small regulated tax on the pastoral property, of about one farthing per sheep. The operative rustics are at all the expense of the instruments necessary for the labour of the soil; and also for the construction of their cottages and the inclosures. Ground that has been occupied and tilled, continues in the possession of the occupant, as long as he pays the political tithe; and land which is still waste, a

stranger may occupy, and, by paying the customary rates, acquire the same right.

The priests are, generally, dependent on the gifts of the people. They wander from village to village, teaching those who wish to learn, such rudiments of knowledge as they themselves possess. They have no local stipend nor habitation, except when they happen to have families, and are concerned in the cultivation of the soil, and then, except by the turban, they are not distinguishable from the other peasants.

Besides their own labour, the peasants, in this part of the country, are obliged to assist in cutting timber, in the adjacent forests, for the navy. Their condition, as several of them told us, would be comfortable enough, if it were not for the occasional extortions which the beys practise, and the obligation, in time of war, to follow their chieftains to the camp at their own expense. At the camp, they are placed on the same footing as the other troops; and, if inrolled among the janizaries, receive pay according to the rank that they may happen to hold: this pay is for life.

In passing to Kirpi from Candros, a town where we slept one night, an officer of the governor, who went with us, pointed out the hill, where, according to tradition, stood the first castle which the Turks took. It is historically certain, that it was somewhere in this neighbourhood that they made their first attack.

Kirpi is an inconsiderable hamlet on the shore, situated on the side of a small well-sheltered bay of the Black Sea. A good deal of timber is sent from the neighbourhood to Constantinople. It was our intention to have gone much farther to the eastward, but an error in

our firmans, and other considerations, induced us to terminate our journey at Kirpi, and to return by the road to Hagi-Ku, the country seat of our Nicomedian acquaintance.

On leaving Candros, a number of women, on horseback, also came out of the town, all in high glee. One of the horses ran away with his screaming rider, and down she fell. The Tartar prevented us from lending her any assistance, and we were obliged to ride on, and leave her on the ground, apparently motionless. Our interpreter was, in fact, something to blame in the business; for, lingering behind, he had fallen into conversation with the women, and, on being summoned to come up, rode off at the gallop, and madam's horse had thought proper to do the same.

Hagi-Ku we found a pretty rural village, and the houses, for the most part, of a superior appearance. The mansion of our friend, the bey, was an extensive building, with a tower in the centre, and situated within a large walled court. Memet, the young bey, a lad about fifteen, received us in his principal public room, surrounded by a number of armed retainers. Besides his tutor, a shrewd and sensible old man, another priest belonged to the domestic establishment. After the customary regale of pipes and coffee, Memet rose, and, telling us to consider the apartment, in which we then were, as our own, while we remained his guests, left the room with all his attendants, who stood upon the sofas as he passed to the door. This was a custom that I had not before seen. We also met with another particular civility in this house: our dinner was prepared in the haram, and consisted, in addition to the common substantial articles, of several delicacies which, I suppose, are peculiar to the inhabitants

of that sanctified abode. The bey had four wives, but only three children. One of the wives was with him in Nicomedia, and the other three, with the children and their women, were at Hagi-Ku.

After dinner, we paid a visit to our host in his apartment, which we found not quite so handsome as the one allotted to us. The windows of our room were of plate, and those of this only of common glass. In the course of our visit, we picked up some information from one of the officers, whom we found more communicative than Turks generally are; and an incident took place, which served to lead the conversation to a subject on which the Turks are shy of speaking. The officer immediately under the bey came in, and, kneeling down, kissed his hand, and retired without saying a word. Soon after, we heard the sound of fire-arms; and were told, that the officer was, that evening, married, and that the sound of the fire-arms announced his introduction to the bride. The communicative officer told us, that the Turks never see their wives before marriage, except when they are children, and that in childhood attachments are sometimes formed. The mothers are the match-makers in Turkey. The marriage is celebrated by the bride being placed, unveiled, with the bridegroom, at a table, on which a feast, purposely prepared, is served to them. Three days they are left unmolested, to try how they may like each other. On the third day, the wedding junketings commence, and are continued till the guests and the young couple are tired. During the time of our visit, we overheard the domestic priest saying prayers to the servants in the hall.

Next morning our visit was returned. The retainers, entering the room before the bey, stood upon the sofas as he walked to his seat at the upper end of the room. Soon after, we bade him farewell.

Nicomedia is a very large town, situated near the head of the gulf, on the steep side of the hills. The remains of an amphitheatre may be traced, and part of the walls of the ancient city are still visible; but there is nothing to justify the exaggerations of the Constantinople writers, who say, that, in the time of Dioclesian, it vied in magnificence with Rome. A small square building of hewn stone is, perhaps, a relic of Dioclesian's palace; but I do not think so, and yet can give no good reason why.

The population of Nicomedia, probably, exceeds forty thousand souls. Here, as elsewhere, we met with a Septinsular practitioner in medicine, and were visited by several bigoted and stupid Greek priests.

The chief manufacture carried on in this city, is red leather, of which vast quantities are prepared for the capital. There is an arsenal, where timber for the navy is collected. During the months of August and September, it is often infected with pestilent vapours, which rise from extensive flat marshy lands at the head of the gulf.

Nicomedia stands in the track of the caravans for Bagdat. By its proximity to Kirpi, and the communication by water with the capital, it might be rendered a good depôt for merchandize, while the Bosphorus is shut, if neutral vessels were provided at Kirpi. The roads across the country are not bad; waggons, for the transportation of goods, are easily procured; and camels and horses are in abundance.

I have a copy, before me, of a memorial, which was some years ago presented to the French government, pointing out the advantage that would arise to that nation, by diligently exploring the coast of the Black Sea. It suggests, that, as the navigation was opened by the last treaty of peace with Turkey, the government should encourage the establishment of a central company at Constantinople, from which agents and corresponding factors should emanate, to such ports, in the Black Sea, as were likely to be of use to the commerce of France. In order to prepare for this object, the memorialist recommends, that a vessel should be fitted out, with proper persons on board, accompanied by an officer of the sultan, to explore the coasts, and to correct the existing charts; and that this vessel should sell and buy, in each port, such commodities as were likely to serve in the business: the result of the information thus obtained, to be made available by the company. A copy of this paper will be found in the Appendix.

The shutting of the Bosphorus during the present war between the Russians and Turks, has interrupted the navigation part of the project; but consuls have been sent, from France, to different ports of the Black Sea; and one, with a large retinue, passed through Nicomedia a short time before I was there, for the purpose of being established at Trebisond. The project, also, has been altered, but not suspended, by the events of the war between the French and British. The blockading system has prevented, in a great measure, the importation of the Levant productions by the Greek and Ottoman

vessels, into France and Italy; and France has been induced, in consequence, to open an overland intercourse with Turkey. It is probable, indeed I have some reason to believe, that measures are now on foot, in order to open a communication from the Black Sea, with the French territories, by means of the Danube, a stream, comparatively, little known to the merchants of any country, and not at all to ours. By this river, as may be seen by a slight glance at the map, France has obtained a direct, and almost immediate, communication with the rich oriental empire of Persia! And when the Turks and Russians make peace, it will be found, unless events arise, very different from what the present aspect of affairs indicate, that the Danube becoming the boundary of the Ottoman empire, and of the intended new state of Wallachia, the neutrality of the navigation will be secured to France and Austria. While all these active measures are in process and intention, with one of the most enterprising and vigorous governments that the world ever saw, what is Britain doing to facilitate the objects of her merchants, or to open new incitements to their industry, which has suffered so severely from the universal shutting of the continental ports?

At present, the commerce of Constantinople is in a very languishing state. The British Factory is diminished to three or four persons. Many of the native merchants trade directly with Malta, where they are furnished with the major part of those articles, which were, formerly, either imported direct from England or from Smyrna. This I regard, in some sort, as a change favourable to our interests, though, perhaps, in the first instance, it cannot be considered as such. Our policy should be to have as few stations on the

continent as possible, and to cultivate insular establishments. Hitherto, our commerce has rather promoted the navy, than the navy our commerce. It is time that the service should be rendered reciprocal. Insular establishments, we are able effectually to protect, happen what may to continental connections: but there is not, yet, one in all Turkey, although the numerous islands of the Ionian Sea afford the greatest facilities for such establishments.

HISTORY.

The situation of this capital, has always been, justly, admired; nor is it easy to imagine a more convenient station for the seat of a government, whose jurisdictions extend equally over Europe and Asia. The harbour, in a remote period, was called the Golden Horn; an epithet, at once descriptive of its form, and expressive of the riches which were continually pouring into it. But Gibbon's excellent detail of its natural advantages, so agreeably adorned with those episodial allusions, which the names of the Hellespont, the Propontis, the Bosphorus, and the Euxine, suggest, supersedes the necessity of any other description.

Six hundred and fifty-six years before the Christian æra, Byzas, who was styled the son of Neptune, probably from his skill as a navigator, transplanted a colony from Argos and Megara, and founded the city of Byzantium, which, after the defeat of Xerxes, was fortified by the Spartan general Pausanias. Byzantium was the rendezvous of adventurers from all the adjacent nations. It grew

formidable to the sovereigns of Bithynia, and even warred against Philip the Macedonian, by whom it was unsuccessfully besieged. Stephen the Geographer, a native of Constantinople, says, that it was from an event in the course of this siege that the crescent and star were assumed as the armorial badge of the city. Philip, having undermined the walls, prepared to assault; but the moon rose before his arrangements were completed, and, by her light, the besieged were enabled to frustrate his design. In consequence they raised a statue to her as Hecate, and she was afterwards honoured as their protecting goddess.

It was not, however, until the Romans had stretched their authority so far to the eastward of Rome, as to induce an opinion that their maternal city was no longer a convenient station for the government, that the golden horn was to wax strong and great, and to be exalted above its fellows, like the little horn of prophecy. Julius Cæsar and Augustus are said to have entertained the project of transferring the Roman government to Byzantium. Dioclesian, actuated by similar motives, embellished Nicomedia, and resided there some time. Constantine, at first, out of respect to the popular opinion of the origin of the Romans, laid the foundations of a new capital on the celebrated territory of Troy; but the superior advantages of the situation of Byzantium soon induced him to abandon that place; and the stately remains of unfinished walls and towers, long after, attracted the eyes of all who passed through the Hellespont.

A decent mixture of prodigy and fable has, in every age, been supposed to reflect a becoming dignity on the origin of great cities *.

Gibbon.

Constantine could not relinquish his undertaking on the Trojan plain without some suitable reason. Accordingly, one night, while he happened to be sleeping in Byzantium, he had a vision from heaven, for dreams descend from Jove *, by which he was instructed to prefer Byzantium. In obedience to that celestial inspiration, as he afterwards told the world, he laid the everlasting foundations of Constantinople. It was not in sleep only that the special interference of supernatural ministers assisted in the planning of this city. On the day appointed to give it birth, the emperor, on foot, with a lance in his hand, headed a solemn procession, directing the line, which was traced as the boundary, till the growing circumference was observed with astonishment by the assistants, who at length ventured to remark, that he had already exceeded the most ample measure for a great city. "I shall still advance," replied Constantine, "till he, the invisible guide who marches before me, thinks proper to stop." The assistants continued to follow him in reverential silence.

Among the ceremonies, with which the ancients celebrated the establishment of a new city or colony, there was one somewhat like the feudal practice of giving a purchaser, or an heir, possession of an estate. A large hole, dug for the purpose, was filled up with handfuls of earth, which each of the new settlers brought from the place of his birth.

In the course of a few years after the date of the foundation, Constantine deemed the magnificent undertaking so far advanced, that he celebrated the dedication with much pomp. He ordered a

marble pillar to be erected, inscribed with an edict, which gave to the new city the title of the second Rome; but the name of the founder prevailed, and after the lapse of ages, and the changes of many revolutions, it is still called the city of Constantine.

The twenty-sixth day of September continued, till the extinction of the empire, to be held as the anniversary of the foundation. It was distinguished by a procession that deserves to be described. A statue of Constantine, bearing, in his right hand, an image of the genius of the place, was erected on a triumphal car. The imperial guards carrying tapers, and clothed in rich apparel, conveyed it round the Hippodrome. When it arrived opposite to the throne of the reigning emperor, he rose and bowed with reverence to the effigies.

Till A. D. 668 Constantinople enjoyed the favour, and shared the fortune of the emperors; her alarms and her factions increasing as the glory of the Roman name declined and faded. Mahomet, the impostor, incited his followers to undertake the siege, by an assurance, that the sins of the first army that attacked it should be forgiven; and forty-six years after the flight from Mecca, they appeared under the walls. A desultory siege of seven years proved unsuccessful, and the expiring flame of Roman heroism emitted a feeble ray on their retreat.

The energy of the new conqueror, though repelled, was not repressed. About the year 716, Constantinople was again invested, and again the Mahomedans were obliged to renounce the siege.

The deliverance of the city, at this time, was chiefly ascribed to the effect of the chemical oil, which has excited so much curiosity,

under the name of the Greek fire. It was invented by Callinicus, a native of Syria, and when inflamed, could only be extinguished by acids, or smothered by sand. It was discharged through long tubes of copper, and darted on arrows, twisted with flax, which had been steeped in the preparation. The prows of galleys were ornamented with bronze images of chimeras and monsters, from whose mouths the terrific and unquenchable combustion was belched, by mechanical contrivances within. For many years the names of the ingredients were carefully concealed by the government; but, at last, the Saracens obtained the secret, and used the fire in the holy wars with great effect. Joinville describes its appearance so as to induce a belief that it resembled the rockets employed by lord Cathcart in the siege of Copenhagen. It came flying through the air, says he, like a winged long-tailed dragon, about the thickness of an hogshead, and with the noise of thunder, and the velocity of lightning. The British rockets only require to be made large enough to equal, in every respect, the destructive faculty of the Greek fire.

In the year 1203 Constantinople underwent another siege, by the combined French and Venetians, by whom it was taken. A truce having been concluded, the city was restored; but, in the following year, the war broke out afresh, and the city was stormed. Among the crimes of the pillage, posterity has to lament the destruction of many admirable works of art, and of manuscripts, which leave a lamentable blank in the records of human knowledge.

In the year 1422 the empire was reduced to little more than the extent of Constantinople, and Amurath the second resolved to make it his capital; for which purpose he advanced against it with an army

of two hundred thousand men; but a revolt among his own subjects, obliged him to raise the siege before he had made any effectual impression on the walls. This accidental respite could not, however, avert the end of the Roman empire, the catastrophe of which, though often described, is one of those awful events which fascinate the imagination, as often as they are brought to remembrance. It took place on the twenty-ninth day of May, in the year 1453.

Mahomet the second having determined to accomplish what Amurath had been obliged to abandon, prepared an army of horse and foot, that exceeded in number two hundred and fifty thousand; and the epoch that he chose for the enterprize was marked by a concurrence of circumstances that demonstrated, as it were, the providential preordination of the event. The powers of Christendom, who, in the much calumniated crusades, so long prevented the progress of the Mahomedan arms, though still acknowledging the Roman pontiff as their head, were no longer, in fact, united into one body; and the papal government itself, fallen from all pretensions to religion, regarded the infidels only as forming a political power. In the vast force of the sultan no more than sixty thousand cavalry and twenty thousand infantry were reckoned of any value. But the whole population of the city was not supposed to exceed one hundred thousand souls; and these consisted chiefly of mechanics, priests, women, and men devoid of that spirit, which even women have sometimes exerted for the common safety.

By the commands of the emperor, Constantine Paleologos, a particular inquiry had been made how many citizens were able, and willing, to bear arms. The lists were deposited with the minsiter.

Phranza; who, after a diligent examination, informed his master, that only four thousand nine hundred and seventy men could be depended on to resist the vast battalions of the enemy.

The Gospel, promulgated to appease and subdue the spirit of hostility, unlike the Koran, offers no recompence to those who fall in battle; but, notwithstanding the religious temper of Paleologos, he resolved, with a kind of magnanimous impiety, that the end of the empire should not disgrace the mighty Roman name. The harbour being fortified with chains drawn across the entrance, the walls became the chief object of his vigilance; as they were necessarily the theatre of the conflicts. Here the few and last of the Romans frankly displayed their valour; but the tremendous artillery of Mahomet, though slowly served, and rudely managed, soon taught them to be more wary, improving their skill, and diminishing their hope.

In this siege the respective powers of the ancient and modern artillery were exhibited. The cannon and engines for discharging stones and darts were intermingled, and balls and battering rams shook the fortifications at the same time.

On the evening preceding the general assault, the Turkish camp resounded with shouts, the presages of victory; and the sea and land illuminated with nocturnal fires, seemed, to the infidels, auspiciously brightened. Far different were the sounds and forebodings in the city; but still the emperor endeavoured to rekindle the hope in the breasts of his generals, that had expired in his own. He could not remove, but he ennobled their despair; and they took their stations on the ramparts, with sad, but firm hearts, while he, with a few

faithful friends, in the cathedral of St Sophia, received the Sacrament, the last administered there, and for the last time. He then returned to the palace, which resounded with cries and lamentations, solicited the pardon of all whom he might have injured, and mounting his horse, rode to the walls, to return no more. At the dawn of day the assault began. The Turks advanced in close and resolute order. The Sultan himself, on horseback, grasping an iron mace, surveyed them with stern satisfaction. The intervals between the peals of the artillery were filled with the sound of drums and clarions; and the voice of the Sultan was occasionally heard, directing the movements of the phalanx and the engines. The emperor, seeing them bursting through the walls, threw away the purple robe, and, in the midst of a little band, that vainly surrounded him, fell by an unknown hand, and lay buried

——— "in that red monument
Which his good sword had digged."

DRYDEN.

A JOURNEY.

On the 4th of January I left Constantinople. The day of my departure was uncommonly pleasant. I felt myself in good spirits; and a variety of little occurrences, illustrative of the meanness, gravity, pride, and patience of the Turks, tended to divert me from thinking much of what I had left, or might have to encounter. One incident appeared so truly ludicrous, as to be almost worthy of being painted as well as described. Two old Turks, at a short distance from the gate, were leading and driving a horse loaded with panniers

filled with vegetables. The road was sloughy, and the horse fell. The attempt to raise him, with the panniers, after much deliberate whipping, proved abortive; but, before engaging in the arduous task of unloading, the conductors, instinctively, agreed to recruit their vigour with a pipe. One of them, accordingly, filled his pipe, struck a light, and began to smoke. As the filling of the pipe, the striking of the light, and the kindling, were processes of time, the other, who seemed to have come to the resolution of waiting until his neighbour had fairly kindled his tobacco, in order that he might obtain a light without the trouble of striking, sat down on his hams, and, with the most immovable equanimity of countenance, looked at the horse weltering in the mire, and the vegetables fluttering and flying in all directions.

When it is considered how universally the pipe is used among the Turks, and the indolence that their constant use of it inspires, it is not ridiculous to allege, that tobacco has tended as much to impair the Ottoman empire, as gunpowder contributed to establish it.

It was my intention to rest at Kootchookcheckmejé (Little Bridge); but, after taking some refreshment, I resolved to go on to Booyookcheckmejé (Great Bridge), where the accommodations in the khan are less comfortless, cold, and dirty. While the horses were getting ready, a troop of six or eight Tartars came gallantly riding into the stable. Surprized to see so great a number together, I eagerly inquired for news, conceiving that they must have come from the armies. But they turned out to be Jews, who had equipped themselves in martial array, to pass with greater security on the road. Of military affairs they were utterly ignorant, and

seemed to take no interest in them: relative, however, to the abilities, and pecuniary reputation of the merchants of Adrianople, they were minutely, and, doubtless, correctly informed.

In Turkey, the three great classes of the people, Mahomedans, Christians, and Jews, are as distinctly separated as the casts of Hindoostan. The first enjoys the highest employments, privileges, honours, and emoluments. From the second, the agents are chosen, by whom the business of the state with other nations is transacted. The third has only the privilege of trade and of handicrafts. Having no political influence, the passion of avarice possesses, among the Jews, the same kind of predominancy that ambition does among the Christians and the Mahomedans. The Greek half cast, is considered as the most respectable of the Christian. Judging from the state of society in Turkey, of which the origin and history are so well known, it may be concluded, that the casts of Hindoostan have derived their peculiarities from similar causes. The most honourable consists, probably, of the believers in the latest promulgated system of religious discipline established by force of arms.

In the present circumstances of the empire, menaced as it appears to be, on all sides, by irresistible enemies, the Mahomedans can expect only degradation, while the Christians aspire to share fully all the various modifications of honour and power. The Jews, regarding themselves as little likely to be affected by the inevitable change, see, with apathy, the disasters that are continually assailing the whole structure of the state; and, instead of embarking in that kind of commerce, which is regulated by political events, they attach

themselves to the traffic of money, or of necessaries. Considering the peculiar nature of their expectations, it is a curious fact, that they are the depositaries, the actual possessors, of the greatest part of the effective treasure of the country.

Between Booyookcheckmejé and Selivria I found the weather gloomy and drizzling. The fields, wasted by the winter, afforded no pleasure to the sight; nor did any occurrence arise to disperse the haze which sympathetically began to invest my own mind. I made an attempt to discover traces of the long wall which the pusillanimous descendants of the Romans constructed to protect their villas from the incursions of the Barbarians; but the rain soon induced me to desist from a search dictated rather by a wish than by curiosity or hope.

The road from Selivria to Adrianople lies across a vast open plain, on which, if the expression may be used, the eye is palled by the monotony of smoothness. The weather continuing dull, the air moist, and the khans filled with returners from the army; the journey was melancholy, and my lodgings, at the different stages, were often in hovels, which rather served to increase my chagrin, than to afford repose after the ride of the day. To add to my vexation, my janizary proved one of the most cowardly animals that ever carried pistols. He met only with difficulties, and heard only of dangers.

Near Karistrang we fell in with several hundred horsemen from the grand vizier's quarters. Their commander was of a rank equivalent to a colonel with us. He was seated on a carpet by the road side, smoking. The janizary alighted to kiss the hem of his garment.

I was also invited to alight, and was treated with coffee, prepared like gipsy fare, under the lea of an old wall.

Not far from the spot where this janizary aga was sitting, an English traveller was, some years ago, murdered. The country, at the time, was in rebellion. The effect of the ravages then committed is still visible, and will be long felt. Tchorlo is almost entirely in ruins, and Burgaz and Babada retain many scars of depredations. Both the latter are pleasantly situated on the banks of fine streams, crossed by handsome stone bridges.

In Za-oof, a village in the neighbourhood of Burgaz, the inhabitants, who are chiefly Albanians, gather their melons green, and keep them till winter, about the middle of which they are found ripe, when they sell them for more than double the current price of the natural season. I met with both the musk and water kinds, excellent, and at less than sixpence each.

At Hecapsa, a stage about four hours distant from Adrianople, I experienced a remarkable instance, as it appeared to me, of the benevolence, so heterogeneously mixed up in the Turkish character. The wind being exceedingly cold, and the rain violent, I stopped at a coffee house, where several old Turks were sitting round a sociable fire. Seeing me chilled and wet, they desired me to take off my boots, and to come into their circle. When I had drank my coffee, and recovered some degree of comfortable feeling, they changed their conduct, and eyeing me severely, inquired if I was not a Russian. They seemed to have no idea, that I might have deemed it convenient to deny; and when informed of the truth, they believed without

scruple, and resumed their placidity. In several other places the same question had been put with as much simplicity, and frequently by the soldiers returning from the army. On this occasion it was rendered more remarkable by the previous hospitality.

The journey, from the capital to Adrianople, is usually performed in four days. It afforded me no gratification. I saw only the signs of a falling empire; towns sinking into ruin; deserters from the armies; the spot where one of my own countrymen had been murdered; and impaled criminals swinging on gibbets.

ADRIANOPLE.

In Adrianople I somewhat recovered my *keif*, a disposition of mind and body which the Turks denominate by this term, and which answers pretty nearly to what we mean by being comfortable. I lodged with the Austrian consul, an agreeable and shrewd old man. He was our agent before the affair of the Dardanelles; an affair, in which, the Turks say, we never intended to do them any harm; and the Greeks, that our admiral and officers were bribed. For the latter of these ridiculous opinions, there are, I dare say, Greeks who can give both the mark and number of the casks of money that were sent on-board the fleet; for I never yet found a Greek who was not more inclined to tell a lye than to confess his ignorance.

Adrianople is the second city of Turkey in Europe; and, before the conquest of Constantinople, was the capital and residence of the Sultans. It is delightfully situated on the side of a gently rising ground, near the confluence of the Toona, the Arda, and the

Maritza. The two former are spacious streams. The first is the ancient Hebros; and, by way of distinction, bears a name which, in the Turkish language, signifies The River. They form, to the west side of the city, three great fosses, as it were, and are crossed by three bridges. The bridge over the Arda, which runs next the town, is built of stone, in such an elegant and substantial manner, that it would do honour to any city. It is said to have been founded, and the piers built, by one pashaw; and that the arches and passages were constructed at the expense of another. The bridges over the Hebros and Maritza are of timber. The one on the Hebros reminded me of Putney-bridge on the Thames. The flow of water beneath seemed to be as wide, though certainly not so deep. The waters of the three rivers of Adrianople, after their union, are only navigable for boats; but by them a constant intercourse is maintained with the port of Enos, about sixty miles distant, situated at the mouth of the river.

The spaces of ground between the streams are formed into mulberry and vegetable gardens, which, when the weather is fine, even in winter, dispose the mind to gay and pleasant reflections. It is commonly understood, that the voluptuous perfume of the otto of roses is made at Adrianople; but I was told that the distillations are performed in villages several hours distant; and that the oil is brought here to be sent to the capital and other luxurious places. The mulberry-gardens produce, annually, about forty thousand pounds weight of silk, of two different qualities. The white is fine, and usually sold for about fifteen shillings sterling per pound.

In walking down the banks of the Hebros, a monument of white marble, the tomb of the English minister, Mr. Hussey, who assisted at the making of the peace of Belgrade, was pointed out to me.

The tomb of Mr. Hussey appears, by the inscription, to have been erected by his widow. I was shewn another similar proof of conjugal affection to the memory of a Turkish minister (a Governor of the city), who, for some malversation in office, had lost his head. According to my European notions, there seemed to be something magnanimously honest in this poor woman's declaration of the regard that she cherished for the memory of her husband. It was not dictated by a factious spirit to excite popular sympathy by any alleged martyrdom (for such artifices have no effect in Turkey), but was the simple memorial of her love. "Whatever may have been the public crimes of my husband, I ever found him kind and good; and, to evince the sense that I retain of that kindness and goodness, I have raised this humble testimonial." Such should have been the epitaph.

The distant appearance of Adrianople, crowned with the dome of the superb mosch of Sultan Selim, a building not inferior to those of the first class in Constantinople, leads the traveller to expect a magnificent town. But the delusion does not last long; a succession of decaying and wasted buildings soon admonishes him to think that he is to see only the haggard old age of a capital city.

Formerly Adrianople boasted that she possessed more moschs than there are days in the year; but the number is greatly reduced; and it is computed that there are not now two hundred in existence,

and many of them are hastening to ruin. The bazar of Ali Pashaw is a noble edifice of its kind. It contains three hundred and sixty shops; and, both in altitude and length, greatly surpasses any of the bazars in Constantinople. It presents the appearance of a stupendous vaulted gallery, perhaps not less than two thousand feet in length. In the neighbourhood of the mosch of Selim there is another bazar, which is also a very noble fabric. It is occupied entirely by the venders of boots and shoes. The uniformity of the commodities, the variety of the colours, and the neat manner in which they are arranged, render the spectacle of this bazar almost entitled to the epithet of beautiful. The mosch of Sultan Selim is of the same form as the great moschs in Constantinople; but it is not so rich in curious marbles. Two columns of green porphyry in the court attracted my attention, the weather having almost eradicated their green tincture. The interior of the dome resembles a vast china bowl, spacious and splendid. The minerets are surprisingly slender; and, in elegance, I think, superior to those attached to any of the Metropolitan moschs. I owed my permission to enter this building to the influence of the French consul. A traveller should not carry about his political animosities. His object is to see the curiosities of the countries through which he passes; and those are his friends who assist him to attain that object.

There is a tradition at Adrianople, that, when the Sultan gave orders for the construction of this mosch, he directed that it should contain a thousand and one doors and windows; and that the architect made only nine hundred and ninety-nine, excusing himself for disobeying the imperial will, by alleging that nine hundred and

ninety-nine was a more magnificent mouthful than a thousand and one; adding also, that no artist could contrive to put one door or one window more in the edifice without destroying its symmetry. I suspect that the Turkish phrase, a thousand and one, is equivalent to numerous, many, or wonderful. For, in Salonika, the Turks say, that the St. Demetrius contains a thousand and one pillars; and, in Constantinople, I was told, that one of the ancient cisterns also contained a thousand and one pillars; to say nothing of the thousand and one nights' entertainment of the Arabian tales.

The stationary population of Adrianople is estimated at eighty thousand souls; of whom twenty thousand are computed to be Greeks, two thousand five hundred, Jews, an equal number, Armenians, and about a hundred, Franks; the remainder consists of Mahomedans. At present, however, the population is supposed to approximate to an hundred thousand souls, in consequence of the arrival of Turkish families that have retired from the seat of war, and the places and towns occupied by the Russians.

The Frank, or, more properly, the French society, for the Franks are all of French origin, retain much of the courtesy of the old school of manners, and still possess the art of rendering trifles interesting. I was one evening regaled with a supper which was served in a paved room set round with orange-trees; which, by the way, I was told, had been cropped of all their blossoms to appease the longings of a neighbour's wife. The January air felt as chill as if it had never enjoyed the blandishments of a flame greater than that of the candles. But the fare was sumptuous, and the chattering of my teeth hastened the mastication. What chiefly amused me,

was the appearance of three little girls, the eldest not more than eight years old, with dressed hair decorated with flowers and tinsel, behaving themselves so prettily at table, that it would have done "La Vieille Cour's" heart good to have seen them.

The gentleman who had formerly been consul to the little republic of Ragusa, gave a dinner to the different consuls and their families, and a ball in the evening to his neighbours in general. I had the pleasure to be invited. The dinner was just such as any similar feast would have been to thirty persons in France or England; but the dancing was dismal. It was the common Greek pacing all in a row, hand in hand, of as many men, women, and children, as the floor would admit; the leader, at every shriek of the fiddles, giving a hitch with one foot, and shaking a handkerchief over his head. This is the self-same dance that the Athenians practice; and which some of the Scribleri imagine to have been the labyrinthical dance introduced by Theseus after his return from Crete.

The Turks here, as in other places, smoke and drink coffee between their scanty meditations; and the Greeks keep their ecclesiastical fasts strictly, and practise all manner of iniquity. The gross revenue of the Archbishop is estimated at upwards of five thousand pounds sterling; but, as a large part of this goes to Constantinople, it is probable that his nett income does not amount to one thousand pounds a year.

The Catholics have a monastery here, with a pair of friars in it, one of whom is setting up for a saint, although the season is evidently past. He walks about in the garden, with folded hands, or dozes over a book. He had the impudence to tell me, that God

had endowed him with the faculty of speaking any language, that he learnt, in such a manner that he could not be distinguished from the natives. The other is a good facetious citizen, and treated me one morning with a glass of hot punch. He has built a house, and almost a church, with small sums, as low, in many instances, as thirty shillings, which he borrowed from poor people at interest. The rent of the house not only pays the interest, but serves to liquidate the principal.

On the left-hand side of the road, in going to the village of Caragash, the house in which Charles XII. was lodged is still shewn. Charles, like most of the heroes of their age, is now pretty well in the shades. Frederick succeeded him in the mouths of the vulgar; but Buonaparte has out-noised them all*. In

* I was amused, in the course of my journey, with a story so much in point, that, although it is absolute nonsense, it is worthy of being repeated. It seems that the Turks shew here a huge pair of boots, and a vast sword; the boots and the sword, as the Greeks say, of the great Marcus. This Marcus was, according to these classic historians, a renowned warrior in former times, who, by some insubordination or another, incurred the displeasure of the Sultan, and therefore was thrown into a dungeon, in order to be devoured by a dragon. When the dragon entered, the great Marcus offered his knee to it; and, straightening his leg as the beast attempted to bite, rent its jaws asunder, and so killed it. But the great Marcus, being a giant (it was from his size that he got the title), eating, at each meal, the whole contents of an oven, and drinking, at each draught, a whole barrel of wine, would soon have perished for want of sustenance, had not his nurse contrived to bring, every morning, a loaf and a bottle to the wicket of his prison. A single loaf, and but one bottle of wine,

passing through the regions of ancient glory, it is almost impossible to avoid remarking the insignificancy of military and political renown, compared with the fame which arises from excellence in art, or discoveries in science. There are no men properly entitled to the epithet of Great, but those who leave something which permanently affects society. Homer still delights; but the vestiges of the Macedonian king remain only in the works of those who still amuse us with the tales of his exploits. How many worshipped queens and damsels, orbs that cheered and decorated their respective

only served to keep him alive, and he grew so weak and meagre, that he was almost quite dead.

At this conjuncture came a great Moor, with white eyes, as big as the marble balls of the huge cannon of the castles of the Dardanelles; and almost entirely destroyed the armies of the Sultan. Then it was that the Sultan repented him of what he had done to the great Marcus, and grieved bitterly for the loss of that famous warrior: whereupon the nurse went to the palace, and told him, that the great Marcus was still alive. The Sultan, in transports of joy, threw his arms about the old woman's neck, and she thought herself ravished. He then commanded the great Marcus to be set free; and all the bakers in the town, and all the vintners, were seven days and seven nights in baking bread, and drawing wine, to satisfy the hunger of the warrior. At the end of this time, the great Marcus, feeling his strength recruited, and his heart courageous, went forth, and vanquished the gigantic Moor, with the white eyes as big as the stone balls of the cannon of the castles of the Dardanelles. But, calling to mind, one night, as he sat in his tent, the indignity that he had suffered from the Sultan, he went out, leaving his boots and sword, and returned no more. Some say he wandered into Russia, where he still lives, lamenting the ingratitude of kings.

Can this legend have any reference to Marcus Aurelius?

spheres, have been quenched in oblivion since the days of the ever-delighting Sappho.

PHILIPPOPOLI.

I left Adrianople on the fifteenth of January, passing through Mustar Pashaw, a town containing about fifteen hundred inhabitants. It is situated on the banks of the Hebros, which, till very lately, was crossed, at this place, by a magnificent stone bridge of nineteen arches. About two years ago, several of the arches were thrown down during a flood; and the bridge is now in ruins. The town, also, is much decayed. The principal mosch would, in England, be considered a handsome parish-church for a market town. The post-houses have been unusually fine; but all is neglected, falling, and ruinous. We were ferried across the river in flat square boats.

I slept at Habipja, two hours, of the post-rate, farther from Adrianople than Mustar Pashaw. It is a poor village, and the post-house is, literally, a hovel. In the apartment allotted to us, as only one fire could be afforded, I found already a crazy old Turk and his servant. The servant shewed a waistcoat that he had made out of a pair of scarlet pantaloons belonging to a Russian officer whom he had himself killed at Roztuke. He told us, that, on the same day, he had caught a young Muscovite, which he sold to a pashaw for three hundred piasters.

The campaign which Henry the Eighth, of England, fought in Picardy, when the Emperor Maximilian served as his vassal, is the last of the Western Christian wars in which the private soldiers were, individually, allowed the ransom of their prisoners.

The following morning we passed, on the road, the former governor of Philippopoli. He was returning to the capital, attended by a retinue of several hundred retainers, and four carriages with four horses each, in which were the ladies of his haram. His led horses were numerous and handsome. He himself, and his officers, formed the nucleus of this desultory train, preceded by a man, on horseback, beating a kettle-drum. The whole array was somewhat ludicrous, and much more disorderly than that of children parading to the sound of an old canister.

In the evening we rested at Kurootchesmai, in the semi-subterranean cabin of a peasant. The interior of this Thracian cottage, both in respect to furniture and neatness, was equal to any habitation of the same class in Scotland, and much superior to those in the highlands of that country. The family were numerous, and of cheerful obliging dispositions. They prepared my supper expeditiously, and displayed, on the occasion, a variety of tin utensils, that would have served a more sumptuous banquet. Having made a large fire, to last for the night, the females retired to a neighbour's house. My bed was spread in a snug corner, and I enjoyed a sleep that would have done credit to a London hotel to have produced. At break of day we were again on the road. We halted to drink coffee at Papas, a desolated village, and reached Philippopoli about four o'clock in the afternoon. The Governor billeted me on the Bishop, with whom I found good lodgings, ecclesiastical fare, and an intelligent physician, who had studied in Italy; and I was, in other respects, abundantly recompensed for the meagre enjoyments of the journey.

It is a general custom of the Greeks to take a dram before they sit down to their meals. The Right Reverend Father in God, his Lordship the Bishop, instead of being served with his in a glass, saluted the bottle personally. Whether this uncleanliness originated in any intention to conceal the quantity that he took, or was only an ill custom, acquired by private practice, I did not inquire. With causes travellers have little to do; it is enough for them to observe and describe. The Greeks and Turks have two regular meals a day. Dinner is served at noon, and supper soon after sun-set.

In approaching the town, I was alarmed at observing a prodigious number of the graves in the cemeteries apparently newly dug up, and concluded that some malignant and sweeping disease reigned in the place. In Turkey the plague readily presents itself to the imagination; I therefore fearfully set down this appalling spectacle to that account. But it is the practice of the Turks, during the Carbun biram, which was only just over, to stir the earth on their deceased friends; and the unusually alarming appearance of the burying-grounds was owing to this ceremony having only recently been performed.

"Mine host," the Bishop, was a grave ecclesiastical personage, not overflowing with information. He was what, in any country, would be called a respectable man; decorous in demeanour, if he wanted cordiality, and punctual in rites, if he wanted devotion. After supper we had a becoming despotical conversation on the affairs of the world in general, and of those of Europe in particular, in which his Lordship displayed as much knowledge of the constitution and people of England as any ordinary member of the English hierarchy

is capable of shewing on the state and manners of the Ottoman nation. In using the term "despotical," let it not be imagined that I am indulging any Presbyterian prejudice. The modern Greeks call their Bishops *despots* with the same kind of propriety that the ancient called their Kings *tyrants*.

The doctor was poetically prone. He told me, that he had attempted to imitate, in the Romaic, the style of Anacreon, and promised me a copy of verses which he had made to a young damsel, offering her a couple of golden apples, &c. But, in spite of his poetical failing, he was a sensible, well-informed man, and possessed an extensive knowledge of the names of the most celebrated authors of Christendom. He told me, that Demetrius Alexandrides, a physician in Ternovo, in Thessaly, who had translated Goldsmith's history of Greece from the English into the Romaic, was still alive; that one Gobdelaa had lately finished a new translation of Telemachus; and that Anastasius Georgiades, a native of Philippopoli, had translated several books, on the medical science, with much ability. The revival of learning in Italy was promoted by translations from the Greeks. The revival of learning in Greece seems, in turn, to be promoted by translations from the languages of the West.

The doctor said, that the natives of Philippopoli were remarkable for their migratory spirit; and that many of them made no scruple to leave their wives and families, and retire into Christendom, where they enjoyed themselves, remitting only a scanty stipend to those who had the best claim to share their enjoyment. The Greeks have less natural affection than any people who pretend to the name of

Christians. It is not easy to conceive how this should be; but it is a charge alleged against them both by the Turks and Franks.

Among the various evidences of the sagacity of the ancients may be reckoned the situations of their towns, in the choice of which they have generally shewn great judgment. The scite of Philippopoli is remarkably happy. In the middle of a large plain, through which the Hebros meanders, three rocky hills rise together; and, by their form and appearance over the surrounding level, suggest the idea of an island. At a short distance from their feet flows the river. On the hills, and the intervening space, the town is built. The houses, for the most part, are mean; but the city is very large. The population is, apparently, not under forty thousand souls.

The plain produces a vast quantity of rice, which is conveyed by rafts of timber, also intended to be sold, and sent by the river to Adrianople and to Enos. From Enos the rice is shipped to other parts, particularly to the towns of the Phrygian coast, and to Constantinople.

The plain is subject to frequent earthquakes, and I had the terrible pleasure of feeling two shocks on the evening of my arrival. The Bishop's servants, who happened to be awake, said they felt three. The first of which I was sensible, took place about midnight. The vibration continued nearly a minute, gradually increasing in strength, and subsiding in the same manner. It was accompanied, or perhaps, rather, produced a heavy continuous sound, and altogether resembled the noise and effect of a vast ponderous engine driven furiously. The second shock was a sort of convulsive

twitch: coming after the first, it excited no alarm. During the first, the Bishop and the servants started from their rooms, and began to pray with all their might and main. I was certainly not less terrified than any of them; for, wrapping myself up in the bed-clothes, I lay in a cold sweat, with feelings such as probably affected the victims of the guillotine in the moment of execution. In the morning the doctor told me, that, within the last two years, these terrific phenomena have become very frequent, and that they are felt, more or less, every week. It has been observed, since the frequency of the earthquakes, that the quantity of rain which usually fell, has diminished.

In Constantinople I was assured that an evident decrease in the waters of the Bosphorus is observable; and I heard, also, that the great south-flowing rivers of Russia are less copious than formerly. The water of the lakes of Canada I was told, some years ago, had subsided, in the course of seven years, about six feet perpendicularly. To what cause are we to attribute this general diminution in the humidity of the globe; and what may be the effects?

BAZERJEEK.

I left Philippopoli about mid-day, crossing the river on a wooden bridge, and reached Bazerjeek soon after five o'clock in the afternoon. The road lay along the banks of the river; and the air being temperate, the ride was pleasant. But, by some strange negligence of recollection, I forgot that my way lay across the field on which the fate of Brutus and of Rome had been decided.

On my arrival, I halted at the Government-house, to shew my

firman, and to request an order for lodgings. The usual practice is to send the janizary forward to arrange this business; but mine, unfortunately, was equally ignorant and reluctant in all the duties for which I had taken him. In this case, however, there was no reason to regret his incapacity; for, in consequence of applying myself at the palace, I was invited to stay there, and was very gorgeously and hospitably entertained.

The establishment of the household seemed to be on a very superior scale, of which some idea may be formed by the number of the cooks. Besides those for the haram, I was told that eight were daily employed; and that the other male domestics exceeded thirty in number. The quarters of the city-guard were also in the palace.

The Governor, Hassan Bey, was a sensible well-informed man for a Turk. He told me, that I was the first British subject he had ever seen, never having been absent from that part of the country. He paid our nation a great many compliments, and seemed to have a tolerably distinct idea of the character and disposition of the different states of Europe. I ought not to omit mentioning an extraordinary act of condescension with which he honoured me when I entered his apartment, and which may be considered as a better proof of the liberality of his notions, than a minute report of his conversation. He rose from his sopha, and advanced to welcome me in a simple and polite manner. He is the eldest of three brothers, who farm Bazerjeek, and part of the adjacent district. One of them resides in the country to superintend their rural affairs; and Hassan, with the younger, a lad about fifteen, transacts the business of the town.

Bazerjeek, in appearance, resembles Larissa, in Thessaly; but the mansions of the principal Turks are larger than those in Larissa, and it has not so melancholy and impoverished an aspect. It reminded me of some of the large market-towns in the north of England. The population is estimated at more than twenty thousand souls; and, from the stir in the streets, and the extent of the town, this estimate did not appear extravagant. The most remarkable things in the place are the minerets of the moschs, the style of which is unusually elegant. They have the appearance of well-proportioned Doric columns, and altogether have a kind of classical air, if that term dare be applied to minerets. Opposite to the windows of my room, which overlooked a trim and neatly-kept garden, stood a public clock.

About two hours after sun-set the household priest performed the evening service (I do not well know what other name to give it), to the domestics, in an open gallery, through which I took occasion to pass at the time. Three pieces of straw cloth, each about twenty feet long, were unrolled parallel to each other; and on these the servants were kneeling while the chaplain was praying. In the morning again, before sun-rise, the same kind of religious exercise was repeated. The general economy, munificence, and regularity of this house, would be respectable in the mansion of any Christian nobleman, of whatever nation.

A JOURNEY.

In riding from Bazerjeek, towards the pass which separates the ridges of Mount Hæmus from those of Rhodope, we halted at a small

village, in order to warm our fingers, the air from the mountains, in the morning, having blown piercingly cold. To our astonishment, no one in the village was willing to admit us. Considering on what ground we were then treading, I might compare our supplications for entrance to those of Orpheus for the restoration of Eurydice; but the churlishness of the peasants was owing to an event that checks the levity of fancy. The village, about ten days before, had been plundered by a party of Asiatic troops, passing to join the army of Vilhi Pashaw, and all the women, except three, were either carried away, or murdered. It is the custom of the Asiatic troops, on coming into Europe, to practise, on their fellow-subjects, all those outrages and aggressions which they mean should distress and afflict the enemy. Thrace and Bulgaria suffer as much from their defenders as from the actual ravages of war. Hassan Bey had, in case of any stragglers of the Asiatic banditti lurking in the recesses of the mountains, ordered a party of his guards to see us through the pass, and they recommended that we should stop, for the night, at Yengi-Ku, a small town, of which the houses are only wattled huts plastered with mud. It stands on the brow of the rising ground over which the road from Philippopoli turns into the pass.

While looking back from this height, on the extensive plain below, through which the Hebros was seen meandering until the eye could no longer trace its course, I could not avoid remembering, in the reflections which occurred to me, that, from Selivria to Yengi-Ku, no natural obstacle but the river intervenes to check the progress of an invading army, and that no artificial defence has been constructed. On the left the chain of Hæmus extends in a

straight line towards the east, and, on the right, the chain of Rhodope towards the south-east, leaving a vast triangular plain between. On this spacious theatre, European tactics are calculated to produce their greatest effect. It seems reasonable to think, that when a Christian army shall have reached Bazerjeek, nothing but a miracle on the one side, or infatuation on the other, can save the Ottoman state.

While I was musing on the, apparently, inevitable fall of this hitherto deemed "powerful empire," an incident took place, opposite to the cottage, which would have disturbed more doleful reflections. A number of handsome young girls came from the adjacent cottages, as the sun was setting, and began to dance to their own singing. The magistrate of the town, a patriarchal personage, soon after, issued from his abode, leaning on his staff, and advanced towards them. At his approach their gaiety was suspended. Having harangued them in a solemn manner, he added an impressive argument from his staff, *à posteriori*, and sent them all screaming to their homes. This vigilant governor was provoked, that they should so thoughtlessly tempt their stars, while Turks and Franks were in the town.

In the morning, at sun-rise, we were again on the road, and travelling in the pass. A quantity of snow had fallen during the night. The wind happening, at the time, to be strong, the mountains and trees on the left received the whole fleece, and were white and dazzling, while those on the right presented a dark and frowning shade. Though the native of a mountainous country, I had never seen any scenery so wild and dismal. The gloom of stupendous steeps, increased by overhanging woods, and the horrors of winter,

enhanced by the dread of robbers, produced a general silence as we passed along. The road, for the greatest part of the way, lies in the bottom of the glen. Towards the west end it begins to ascend; and, after winding for some time along the shaggy cornice of fearful precipices, passes through a Roman gateway, which serves to attest the ancient importance attached to the pass. A small dervent, or guard-house, at the same place, also shews that its consequence is not entirely unknown to the Turks.

We halted at the dervent, and the soldiers treated us with coffee.

Having warmed ourselves, we again mounted, and, leaving the carriage road, descended by a more rapid and expeditious path to Ightiman.

We were now within the range of the Turkish army, and I was advised to renew my guards here, and to take them on to Sophia. Half-way from Ightiman to Yengi-Khan, we stopped at a small coffee-house on a hill, near the ruins of a church, situated in the middle of a burying-ground, in which the graves are marked with little upright stone crosses. The Turks do not, in general, allow the Christians to distinguish their graves in this manner. While we rested here, a number of peasants, men and women, came with a corpse, on a cart drawn by oxen; and, having dug a hole, deposited their dead, with no other ceremonial than a slight silent token of resignation, as in Scotland.

At Yengi-Khan I halted. It is rather a pleasant village. The khan appears to have been a handsome structure. It was burnt down about twenty years ago, in some commotion of the natives; and it

has not since been repaired. I found a snug corner in a coffee-house, where my bed was stretched, and the post-master sent me a tolerable supper. I had come to Adrianople with hired horses, but, fortunately, was there persuaded to avail myself of my post orders; otherwise, the hardships arising from the season, and the circumstances in which I found the country, would, by this time, have become almost insupportable. I came on expeditiously, next morning, to Sophia, and was lodged with Theophanes, the bishop, a man of whose learning and genius I had received a high report in Philippopoli; which, like few Greek reports, was not exaggerated.

BISHOP THEOPHANES.

Theophanes, the bishop, is considered, for his learning and the liberality of his sentiments, one of the most distinguished members of the Greek hierarchy. He was born in Smyrna, on the second of May 1751, where his father was a merchant. In the year 1776, he passed into Europe, visited, in the course of his travels, several of the cities most celebrated for the learning and politeness of the inhabitants, and resided some time in Vienna, Dresden, Paris, Lyons, Milan, Florence, &c. He had previously been in Constantinople, and had travelled in Wallachia and Moldavia. His style, in Latin and literary Greek, is said to be pure and classical. He writes French with fluency and elegance. He reads Italian and German. He has also some knowledge of the English language, and understands the different languages and dialects of the Ottoman subjects. His poetry is much admired, particularly his French verses. He has published several books, and one in that language;

particularly "A Refutation of the impious System of Occellos," written originally in French, but printed in literary Greek as well as in that language. In what way the bishop has refuted the argument for the eternity of the world, I cannot pretend to say; but the title of his book is something in the style of the labours of the learned of the sixteenth century. He has now ready for publication, a philosophical work in Latin, on the systems of the different cabinets of Christendom

About twenty years ago, while he was still, comparatively, a young man, and in the full enjoyment of the superiority which he had derived from his knowledge of mankind, and when the society of Constantinople was much more opulent and refined than at present, he was summoned to his diocese by his flock, and quitted the world with reluctance. In his person, he is a short, fat, Doctor Slop-like figure, and in his temper remarkably testy. This brittleness, however, being evidently the effect of the irksomeness which he has so long felt, is often more diverting than disagreeable. His house never appears to have been put in order from the moment of his arrival. The stairs are encrusted with the dirt of a whole age. Under the cushions of the sofa on which he sits and sleeps, are stuck innumerable scraps of papers, the accumulated notes and memoranda of twenty years. I requested him to shew me some of his poetry. Putting his hand beneath the cushion at his back, he pulled out an ancient manuscript, containing the draught of a sonnet which he had written at Adrianople, while on his way to Sophia. It was addressed to a Grecian princess of the name of Zephyria, whom he described to me as a young girl of exquisite beauty and

genius, although by this time she must be pretty well stricken in years.

When I entered his room, I found a volume of the New Eloisa, with one of a new French translation of Clarissa Harlowe on his table — two very fit parlour companions for a bishop! I did not distinctly understand what it was that he said he was particularly comparing in them; but his general opinion of the two works, I think, was judicious. I met, also, here, Dr. Terianos, with whom I was formerly acquainted. To find two respectable literary characters at the head-quarters of a Turkish army, was an unexpected miracle.

THE TURKISH ARMY.

Vilhi Pashaw had with him, in Sophia, about fifteen thousand men. His army had been greatly augmented after he left the neighbourhood of Salonika, and it was now supposed, that, with the garrison of Sophia, and the troops cantoned in the neighbouring towns, he had not less than fifty thousand men under his command. At Adrianople, I was informed, from the best authority, that the grand vizier's great army was reduced to little more than the number of his own household; and that, in less time than a week, he was not able to muster twenty thousand men. The Russians had, it is true, retired from that part of Bulgaria; but it is a historical fact, which the Turks have never considered, that the Russians have always made their advances early in the spring, before the Ottoman armies were re-collected. I was assured, not only here, but along the whole track of my journey from Silivria, that, notwithstanding reports to

the contrary, the Turks, in no part of the last campaign, had two hundred thousand men in the field, comprehending all within the scope of the war, from Widdin to Warna. Reckoning by the bannerets, they had a much greater number, for each banneret is supposed to be accompanied with an hundred and twenty men; and the strength of the force is reported to the sultan by the number of the bannerets.

The Turks have not the use of the bayonet, nor any weapon calculated to contend with it. The cavalry use a spear; but the Albanians, and the other foot soldiers, only muskets, swords, and pistols. By the state of their weapons, they are greatly inferior to the troops of Christendom; which, with the want of discipline, causes them, whatever may be their personal bravery, always to be defeated. In the whole of the war with Russia, down to the month of March last, they had not gained one single advantage.

The idea of the head quarters of a vizier, had, hitherto, stood in my mind magnified with all "the pomp and circumstance of glorious war." I had fancied that I should hear the continual clashing of cymbals, the clangor of trumpets, and the neighing of chargers superbly caparisoned. I expected to see the idle state of innumerable banners mocking the air, and a restless throng of gorgeous agas. If I looked not for discipline, I counted on beholding an anarchy; and in approaching Sophia, actually began to patch together in my mind an imperfect recollection of that passage of the Paradise Lost, in which Milton describes the visit of Satan to Chaos, in order that I might have an apt and beautiful quotation when I came to describe so magnificent a spectacle as a vizier's camp; but my journey was ordained to chastise me with disappointments. I saw, in Sophia,

only a multitude of Albanians, as wild as the goats on their native mountains. Nor were the pistols in their belts, perhaps, more formidable weapons than the horns on the heads of the companions of their youth. Their dress was ragged, and as dirty as the dust. The clouts round their brows, as they walked, grinning, against the winter's wind, made them appear more like mad beggars than soldiers. Every thing about them indicated the filth and misery of prisoners, rather than the pomp and insolence of soldiers.

But it is not abroad only that the circumstances of this impaired and disordered empire are falsely represented. While I was here, a grand salute was fired from the five helpless field-pieces of which his highness's park of artillery consisted, in honour of a great victory obtained, over the Russians, near the confines of Persia. In proof of this victory it was affirmed, that three thousand heads of the vanquished slain were brought to Constantinople. What surprised me most was, that Vilhi Pashaw should have given countenance to this tale, and attached to it all the importance of a fact.

He is a man neither unacquainted with the ways of the world, nor unskilled in human nature. When I saw him in the Morea, he was then at his ease; and he appeared facetious, shrewd, and greatly superior, in the general cast of his endowments, not only to any idea that I had formed of Turks in general, but in respect to a kind of dexterous mode of extracting opinions, to most men that I had ever met with. When I visited him here, he was the same kind of person, but considerably altered. He still retained his disposition to jocularity; but the colour of his mind appeared to have become graver. He was, now and then, serious, and directly inquisitive; a frame of temper which,

contrasted with his natural gaiety, denoted anxiety and fear. He kept me with him above an hour. Though his conversation was, occasionally, enlivened with sly questions about the different English travellers who had visited Tripolizza, he often reverted, with his natural address, to the state of Turkey in our estimation. He, evidently, seemed to think, that Turkey, alone, was not capable of effectually prosecuting the war. Nothing escaped from him that distinctly conveyed this opinion; but his manner, and the tendency of all his questions, warrants me in ascribing it to him. Nor could I forget, at the time, that he had himself said to me, twelve months before, in speaking about the Albanians taken into our service, that they would not be found capable of contending with disciplined Christian troops. He is, unquestionably, a man of great natural talents; but his head is more political than military. It is no slight proof of the absurdity of the Turkish government, that he should be placed at the head of the main body of the army. He had never been in battle; and, therefore, whatever may be the justness of his notions as to the mode of conducting war, he wants, entirely, that habitual readiness in comprehending the details of field operations, which is essential to success.

Since the arrival of the flock of British travellers who are now pervading every part of the Ottoman dominions, Vilhi Pashaw has begun to be an antiquary, and has regular bands of scafiers employed in different parts of the Morea. He told me that he had found the armour of Epaminondas, which he valued at five thousand pounds sterling! Vilhi's taste for antiquities does not arise from any respect for venerable relics, or curiosity for specimens of ancient skill, but

from a pure mercantile inclination to make as much money as he can by those who entertain this respect and curiosity. He professes to be, decidedly, an admirer of our nation; and the bishop, Theophanes, told me, that in a conversation which he had held with him on the subject, his highness had shewn himself well acquainted with the respective principles of the British and French governments.

To counterbalance the ascendancy that France has obtained in the west, it is desirable that some great power should arise in the east. Russia seems formed to become that power. Both by her natural situation, and by her religion, which, in these parts, is an object of primary consideration, she is better calculated than any other to renew the equilibrium. In point of general civilization, the Russians may be inferior to the Turks; but they are animated with an improving spirit, while the Turks are seized with incurable decay. The Greeks would be a valuable acquisition to Russia. They would serve to raise her, at once, into a rank approximating, in some degree, to the civilization of the other states of Europe; or, rather, they would, speedily, realize to her that character which she has obtained by the talents and judicious measures of a series of extraordinary sovereigns, more than by her proficiency in civilization. The possession of Constantinople by Russia, would complete a vast bulwark to the progress, eastward, of the French arms.

With regard to the extensive realm under Ali Pashaw, there can be no hesitation as to what should be our conduct. It is already, in every thing but the name, a great kingdom. The predominancy which the Albanians have acquired, mark it out as theirs. They are martial, hardy, and laborious; presenting, in their manners and

pursuits, exactly those qualities which we are taught, by historians, to expect in a nation on the point of emerging from barbarity.

SOPHIA.

Sophia is a mean dirty town, surrounded with a slight wall, which has lately been strengthened by digging a ditch on the outside, and throwing up the earth against it. This is what is called a Turkish entrenched camp! The houses, in general, are mere hovels; and the mire in the streets was so deep, that it rendered them nearly impassable to foot passengers. It was not unusual to see a large, plump, grave, gorgeous Turk, standing on the last stone of a crossing row, looking on all sides, with a disconsolate and piteous eye, for another, till he saw a horseman come splashing along: then, indeed, he does make an effort, and gains the pathway in a surprising manner, from which he looks back, and growls.

The ordinary population is estimated at ten thousand souls, chiefly Greeks, prone to join the Servians against the Turks. I was not aware, before my arrival here, that there was, actuall y, any schismatic difference between the Greek and Russian churches; but I have been informed that there is a most important. The Russian admits of secular controul, not only in doctrinal questions, but in the appointment of bishops and inferior clergy. The Greek is purely ecclesiastical, but not for that the more pure. The bishop, in reply to a particular question, in which I intreated him to give me a candid answer, and as a man of the world, said, that the one half of the Greek church had no religion, and that those who had any, were worse than the others!

The only ancient building in the town, is the church of Saint Sophia, a considerable fabric, long since converted into a mosch. It was used as the powder magazine. The government-house has been an extensive building of its kind, but it is much decayed. In the court-yard I saw two coaches and a chariot, in the English style; and about half an hour after, the head of a Russian, which had been sent to Vilhi Pashaw, was stuck upon a pole as a trophy of victory. For this his highness, afterwards, paid dearly.

A JOURNEY.

During the day that I halted at Sophia, a heavy fall of snow commenced, and continued all night; nor had it so much abated in the morning as to excite the least inclination to take the road; but circumstances rendered it necessary to proceed rapidly, and my departure could not be delayed. As Widdin had been left out in my firman, the vizier gave me a Tartar, to secure a reception in that fortress; and, also, orders to the governors of Belkofsa and Kaaralom, to furnish me with what guards they might think necessary to ensure my safety. As far, therefore, as concerned the robbers that infest the great Belkam, I had little to apprehend; indeed, the severity of the cold was such, that no other travellers were likely to be on the road, to tempt them from their dens. It happened, also, that an Austrian janizary had occasion to go the same way; so that, what with one thing and another, I had a pretty formidable company. But, as large bodies move slowly, what added to our strength impeded our motion; and though we had nothing to fear from the two

or four-footed wolves in the pass, there was great reason to dread the effects of the snow and the intensity of the cold, which, as we ascended the higher regions of the mountains, exceeded the most intense that I had ever before experienced.

The road from Sophia, for about three hours ride, lay across the spacious plain on which the town is situated. Our horses were good, and we were enabled, now and then, where the snow had been blown thin, to ride fast enough to keep ourselves warm. I remarked, that the Tartars tied handkerchiefs firmly over their ears; and I found, that this manner of confining the insensible respiration by the ears, caused an agreeable warmth to be diffused over the face.

The carriage way being closed by the snow, the postillions resolved to take the footpath over the first and lower range of the hills. They pretended, also, that it would be shorter; but we found it so bad, concealed by the snow, and broken, that, even when we had reached the height, we could only walk our horses — no trifling hardship, considering the state of the weather. At length we again found ourselves on the highway, which runs, for several miles, along the bottom of a valley, that is entered without descending from the hills that we had passed. In this valley I saw several hamlets, of which the houses were partly excavated in the sides of the mountains; and several piles of cotton and merchandize, bound to be transported across the Danube, but which the snow had arrested, by rendering the roads impassable to laden horses.

At the west end, a break in the mountains discloses a landscape of alpine scenery, that, in a more indulgent season, would have awakened admiration, and inspired delight. At the close of a gloomy

winter day, and as the pass by which I was to ascend to a region that was wrapt in dismal clouds, the view served only to fill me with regret and dismay.

After two hours of cheerless and impatient riding, we reached a small hamlet of wattled huts, at the foot of a stupendous and steep ridge, along the side of which our road, for the next morning, was seen winding on the snow towards the summit, like the junction of two clouds in the sky. This hamlet was inhabited by Turks, appointed for the purpose of facilitating the intercourse with the troops stationed on the northern side of the mountains. We found in the chief hut a comfortable fire, and a snug corner, in which I could stretch my whole length. The Turk, who had charge of the post, regaled us with sugarless coffee; and, in the course of the evening, with the help of a fowl, he contrived, with beans, oil, and onions, with the all-worshipful pillau, to furnish out no despicable supper.

In the morning, by break of day, we were again on the road. The rigour of the cold had abated; the snow had ceased to fall; and a thick mist enveloped the landscape, rather, however, in detached masses than universally. From several places, in ascending the lofty ridge already mentioned, on looking down I saw breaks and openings in the clouds, which disclosed, far below, the track of a terrestrial stream in a vale, and other signs and evidences of the habitable region of men.

The view from the brow of this sublime height, was unlike any prospect that I had ever before seen. A soft haze pervaded the atmosphere; all was white; but the haze so tempered the white, that the eye could look in every direction, unannoyed. A gentle air stirred the mist that lay along the side of the hills, occasionally

revealing and concealing the more sublunar scenery. The whole appearance of nature was soft, furry, and imperfectly defined; and the effect on the spirits was correspondingly tranquil and complacent.

But our way led us to a still higher climate, above the haze and the clouds, and where the sun shone with almost insufferable splendour. On this higher tract, the road lies, for several miles, along a plain, gently inclined towards the north; here and there feathered with trees; for, when I passed, the trees had all the appearance of white feathers. They gradually increased in magnitude and number, till we found ourselves beneath the branches of the forest that clothes the northern side of the mountains. The road, which winds down through this wood, was, in many places, so steep and slippery, that we were obliged to dismount, and lead our horses.

About half way down, we fell in with one of those idiots which follow the armies of Christendom as well as of Turkey. He wore a turban made of a wolf's skin, and rode a horse which he had brought away from Belkofsa, to save himself and it from being starved to death. He was nearly unspeakably drunk, and it was with difficulty that what he said could be understood.

Savage and gloomy places, such as the passes in this wood, perhaps, often tend, by some strange moral influence, to instigate the wretched inhabitants to the commission of those outrages, the dread of which induces the traveller to quicken his pace, and to rouse his courage. Near a rude bridge of trees, across a ravine, the first that is passed in descending from the great ridge of the mountains, a French officer of distinction, with his servants and three Tartars,

were, some years ago, robbed and murdered. Perhaps it is not unworthy of being noticed and recorded, that, although robberies, in this part of Turkey, are not less frequent than formerly, they are now very rarely attended with murder. The commercial intercours e with Germany, through Hungary, has softened the spirit of outrage. The travellers are more numerous; but they seldom carry more money with them than is absolutely necessary for their expenses; deriving, by the extending circulation of bills of exchange, the means of executing their business, for which, formerly, they were obliged to carry effective money. They have, therefore, now, comparatively, but a slight motive for resistance; and, unless they be indeed headstrong, they will always surrender at discretion.

When we had reached the lower part of the forest, we met a band of armed men, the chief of whom commanded us to halt and alight. It was the governor of Belkofsa and his guards, going to inspect a post in the neighbourhood. Vilhi Pashaw's Tartar immediately untied his portmanteau, and presented him with a ring from his master, and a letter, in which I was recommended to his protection. The governor had, in the mean time, seated himself on the ground. Putting the ring on his little finger, he began to read the letter. Suddenly, a blast of wind came roaring through the wood, shaking the whole wintry weight from the trees, and covering us all so quickly and profusely, that I began to fear that we were involved in the beard or tail of an avalanche. The governor having disencumbered himself from his pelisse of snow, and read the letter, after the usual Turkish salutations, took his inkstand from his girdle, and wrote instructions to his second in command, to furnish me with

guards as far as Kaaralom, to the commandant of which the Tartar had another ring and a letter. He then mounted, and we also pursued our way.

The Turkish phrases of compliment and salutation are the same on all occasions. The second, which is delivered after a visitor has been seated a short time on the sopha, is an inquiry if he be comfortable. The Governor of Belkofsa was too polite a personage to omit it; so, stroking down his breast, as he was sitting in the snow as high as his head, he inquired, with all possible gravity, in a tone of hope, if I was comfortable? The snow was up to my middle.

On the skirts of the forest we halted, for a short time, at a village situated on the uneven banks of a rapid stream. As the whole face of nature was deeply covered with snow, I found a cottage fire a much more agreeable object of sight than any in the landscape. In this village I was greeted with a new title. An old peasant came up to me as I had mounted, and inquired if the Domos would drink wine with him, which the Domos, of course, did.

It was about two o'clock in the afternoon when we reached Belkofsa, a town of less extent than Sophia, but much better fortified. The Russians, in one of their late incursions, having taken possession of it, after they retired, the government-house was formed into a little citadel, which, considered as a temporary work, reflects credit on Vilhi Pashaw's engineers. The town is situated in a hollow sweep in the lower range of the mountains. The houses generally are but hovels and sheds. The residence of the Governor is a new and respectable fabric, and stands dignified, in my remembrance, by a good dinner. On a neighbouring hill, overlooking the

town, is a small ancient fortification, which has also lately been strengthened by new works, and a garrison of several hundred men. At Sophia I was told that the garrison of Belkofsa amounted to five thousand men. Half the number would have been more than the truth.

No snow having fallen, on this side of the mountains, for several days, the road to Widdin was pretty well trodden. We reached Kootlofsa before sun-set, distant from Belkofsa about four hours of the post-rate. Here, upon persuasion of being paid, a Goody Blake consented to give me the use of her house for the night. The commandant had allotted me a better habitation, but it had not been warmed by a fire for the Lord knows how long; and there were two pieces of ice, in what had been pools of water, in the very chimney-nook. In this village we found it extremely difficult to procure any thing either for man or beast. Indeed, had it not been for the authoritative voice of the Tartar, I know not what we should have done. Having made a hearty dinner, supper, some comfortable critic, who has done the same, may think, was not very necessary. But a ride, from day-break till the evening, through pools and snow, deserves more than one meal a day; at least I thought so, especially as we were to depart, without breakfast, in the morning.

From Kootlofsa to Kaaralom nothing worth noticing occurred. Two wolves looked at us from a distance; and the Tartars setting up a shout, they ran away. The villages appeared to be semi-subterranean. The peasants, remarkably stout, tall, and well made, were dressed in sheep-skins, of which the wool was worn in the inside.

The Governor of Kaaralom, a frank, sensible Albanian, received me with much cordiality, and provided me with lodgings in the house of a Greek, whose humble habitation, though but a cottage, exhibited signs of an incipient taste for gentility. The hostess was active, and seemed superior to her class. It was situated, like the other houses of the town, within a small inclosure, which, however, instead of being a receptacle for old shoes, bones, rags, and rubbish, had the appearance, even through the snow, of being neatly planted. My room had not glazed windows, but the wooden frame was covered with writing-paper, uniform, and all entire. The floor was earth. Round the walls was a small platform, in imitation of the sophas of the Turks. A stove, constructed of tiles and mortar, which the kitchen-fire served to heat, warmed this apartment. My meal, though of homely materials, was dished in respectable earthenware, and with a palatable degree of heat; an ingredient highly essential, in winter, to the simplest fare, as well as to the compounds of the most abstruse cookery.

From Kaaralom to Widdin the road lies along the banks of the Danube, that famous epic stream, whose waters have never ceased to blush for the calamities that mankind bring upon themselves. The morning was thick and dull; and the opposite shore was not visible. The surface of the river was encrusted with floating ice, hurling along with a harsh and continual crashing.

A PASHAW.

Every traveller is necessarily the hero of his own story, especially if he happens to travel alone. When he has the felicity of a

companion, the unavoidable egotism is obscured by the use of the social pronoun. This remark is a necessary preface to the following adventure.

Widdin had been left out in my firman, and the omission, as it was pretended, could not be rectified. But, as this fortress was one of the chief points to which my journey was directed, in order to obviate the effects of the omission, before reaching the gate, I sent forward Vilhi Pashaw's Tartar. This obtained, for me, leave to enter; and I reached, unmolested, the house inhabited by the Archbishop, to whom I had a letter. His regular habitation was, at the time, converted into barracks. Having only himself an apartment in a private house, he could not accommodate me with lodgings; but the gates of the citadel were shut, for the night, soon after I had obtained admission, so that I was obliged to remain with him.

In the course of a short time after my arrival, the officer, who has the superintendance of strangers, had reported me to the pashaw, and the Bishop was immediately sent for to give an account of his guest. The Turk who brought this message, having delivered it, spread his mantle on the floor, and said his prayers.

In the room, when I arrived, the Pashaw's interpreter happened to be sitting; and, while the Archbishop was gone to the palace, we fell into conversation. He recommended himself to me in the warmest manner, and also a notorious Greek, of whose malpractices I had previously received some information. The interpreter had been brought up in the midst of that focus of rascality, the petty court of Bucarest, and seemed to have an innate appetite for intrigue. He was well acquainted with the vendible qualities of

several noted personages in Constantinople, and elsewhere; and I had some reason to credit much of what he very freely stated. Notwithstanding all my assertions to the contrary, and the tenor of the letter to the Archbishop, with other strong proofs, he set me down as a military officer sent to spy the nakedness of the land. Had I worn a uniform, as the English travellers in Turkey commonly do, I should not have been surprized at this; but I had nothing more bloody about me than a red waistcoat. I have not even, for what may be considered a pusillanimous reason, ever carried arms in the whole course of my travels. Finding myself at the mercy of interpreters, by whose blunders misunderstandings might arise, I resolved not to have it in my power to precipitate quarrels. It seemed, also, to me, safer to be without arms, because harmless creatures are more hospitably dealt with than those which have stings and venom. The artful character of the interpreter's own mind, and the reputation of his friend, convinced me that I ought to have nothing to do with him. Acute and suspicious, he was not long in observing that his offer had been mentally rejected.

Next morning I went to the seraglio; and I was first introduced to the pashaw's secretary, a cunning clever old Turk. From his room I was conducted, through many a labyrinthical turning, to the chamber where sat the "semi-virumque bovem" himself, holding a curiously-carved and knotched wooden sceptre in its paw, with which it occasionally scratched its neck.

When the Turk is at his ease, he sits, as all the world knows, cross-legged; but, when his mind is excited, he elevates his sitting part, and, drawing his knees together, bends forward with an eager

countenance. Into this posture Mula Pashaw threw himself as I entered the room; and I therefore concluded, that he felt himself greatly interested in my visit. In the course of conversation it appeared, that the interpreter had been with him, and that my promotion had been very rapid, for his highness, more than once, affirmed his conviction that I was no less than a general. But while the solemn service of pipes and coffee is going on, his history may be introduced.

The former governor of this district was one Passwan Oglu, whose name I recollected to have seen, some time ago, coupled, in the newspapers, with a great deal of nonsense, as there commonly is about Turkish affairs. Passwan Oglu, by extortions, and frauds on the revenue that he had been entrusted to collect, acquired vast riches. It is said, that, in jewels and money, he left to the value of more than two millions and a half sterling. Mula Pashaw was a low officer in his household; but he had attracted the good graces of his master's favourite wife, who, after the death of her husband, contrived to surrender herself to him, with all the enormous hoard of tyranny and peculation. With so much wealth, his promotion at Constantinople was, of course, irresistible. He was soon appointed successor to his master, with all the titles and prerogatives usually given to the governors of this important fortress. In his manners and mind, I found him a genuine Turk, of that stamp by which the Turkish character is best known in Christendom, ignorant, insolent, and as proud as Lucifer. However, our interview passed off tolerably well, and he seemed disposed, on his own part, to be civil.

The town was so full of soldiers, that he could not give me lodgings in any private house; but he ordered an apartment in one of the khans to be carpeted for me, into which I removed immediately after leaving the seraglio. In the mean time, the interpreter and the Greek to whom I have alluded, and whom I must consider as the invisible machinery of my epic, had put their heads together, and were at work.

Towards the evening, I received an intimation, by my janizary, that it was expected I would not stay more than three days in the town, nor walk about the fortifications. This intelligence was not very agreeable; but happening, at the time, to be writing, it did not much trouble me. Before the gates were shut for the night, a message came from the Tartar aga of the garrison, to inform Vilhi Pashaw's Tartar, that horses were ready for him, and that he must depart immediately. Two days passed without any occurrence; and a heavy fall of snow prevented me from having any desire to walk abroad. On the afternoon of the third day the weather cleared, when my janizary, who happened to be out in the street, came in, with great exultation in his looks, to call me to see the pashaw in a scarlet chariot, with about two hundred guards, going to the custom-house; little thinking that all this magnificent array was on our account. In the course of a few minutes after, came a messenger, with a silver rod in his hand, and ordered the janizary to go to the pashaw. The janizary went, with fear and trembling, and returned, with the tear in his eye, along with the messenger, to inquire if I was not a Russian spy; because, if I was, the pashaw had threatened to put his head in his hand, like a melon, for bringing me into the

fortress. This was accompanied with an order for my dragoman to attend examination: but the plot had now thickened to such a degree, that I thought it best to hasten the catastrophe, and therefore refused to allow him to leave the room.

This answer brought the pashaw's interpreter, with a consequential aspect. I recapitulated to him all the circumstances of the extraordinary course of proceeding that seemed to have been adopted towards me, and again affirmed that I had come on no other business than what was already known to him. He went away, and returned, soon after, with an inquiry if I had any letters for the pashaw, in order to account for the omission of Widdin in my firman. With the natural answer to this he departed; but almost immediately came back with a demand for my papers. To this it was necessary, since things had come to such an extremity, to put on a bold face. I therefore replied to the following effect.

"My papers consist wholly of private letters, and passports, which I will certainly not deliver to you, nor to any one else. Nor do I know that all these impertinent messages really come from the pashaw; but in case they do, you may tell him, that I will attend himself whenever he is pleased to call me, and satisfy him sufficiently that I am a British subject — that, as such, I claim his protection. If there be any complaint against me, I should be told what it is; but do not endeavour to pick matter of suspicion out of my attendants. Finally, and once for all, say that I feel myself in the power of his highness; but, at his peril, let him do me any injury."

Historical truth obliges me to confess, that there was really very little heroism in this magnanimous oration. I knew that, however

fairly and clearly Greek interpreters may reflect the acquiescences of peace and ceremony, they are almost non-conductors of indignant remonstrance. The fellow to whom I was speaking, would as soon have ventured to have tugged the pashaw by his black bushy beard, as to have repeated a moiety of the sense only of what I said. My answer closed the affair. The pashaw sent to say, that, as he could neither read nor write, he wished me to wait next day with my papers on his secretary, which I did; and it is but justice to add, that I had no farther reason to complain during the remainder of my stay.

During this last visit of the interpreter, my stupid janizary, understanding that the pashaw was wanting my papers, and he, happening to have a number of packets and trumpery in his portmanteau, must, forsooth, bring his also out, in order to strengthen the affirmations of our purity and innocence. Among them, to my indescribable horror, was a parcel for Prince Kaminsky, the Russian Commander in Chief. I had but one way to take on this frightful discovery, which was to order him with it instantly to the pashaw. The three or four minutes which he was absent were truly exquisite. However, he soon returned, with a blithe countenance, saying, that the pashaw was in correspondence with the Russian General, and would transmit the packet, without delay, across the river, to the officer commanding there, and send the receipt when the boat returned; which was faithfully performed.

WIDDIN.

Widdin is the only fortress that the Turks retain on the banks of the Danube. Between Christendom and Constantinople there is, now, no artificial impediment; and I have described the most formidable of the natural, as seen and travelled under the inclemencies of winter.

The walls of Widdin are well built, in the European style of fortification; or rather, they are but little changed from the state in which they were when it was taken from the Austrians. It is said, that no less than three hundred pieces of heavy brass ordnance are mounted on them. The number is certainly very considerable. The old castle, though almost in ruins, is still a stately and venerable pile. Seen from the river, it is a noble and picturesque feature in the appearance of the town. By its vicinity to the new works, it serves to shew, that, whatever the structures of the modern art of fortification may have gained in the means of defence, those of the ancient displayed more aspectable grandeur. The new citadel, built in the time of Passwan Oglu, I did not visit; but it is considered here as a very redoubtable construction. On the east side of the city, a large suburb extends down the bank of the Danube; and it has also been inclosed, lately, by a temporary wall and ditch.

The population of the city and suburbs is estimated, at present, to amount to fifty thousand souls. Probably it is not less than thirty thousand. Every report of population, and of every thing else, in Turkey, must be received, not with caution only, but with doubt. It is certain, that the number of inhabitants ascribed to different

places in this empire, far exceeds what is well known to exist in towns, apparently much larger, and more populous, with us.

Between the houses of the suburbs and the river, there is an open space, about fifty yards wide, along which lie the vessels and boats employed in the navigation of the Danube. Owing to the jealousy with which I was treated, I did not choose to be very particular in my inquiries relative to any thing about the town or river; but, one afternoon, I counted upwards of seventy vessels at the wharf, of which the smallest seemed to be capable of carrying ten tons, and the largest at least thirty; and there were many more which I did not reckon. Between Belgrade and the mouth of the river, upwards of six hundred boats and barks are employed. The French are well acquainted with this, and, no doubt, know their value. For, by the river, they have now a communication with the Black Sea, by which they may approach almost to the confines of Persia; and they are, at this moment, organizing the means of intercourse.

Widdin afforded an interesting and an extraordinary scene. In the heart of the war, on the one side exposed to the Servians in open union with the enemy; on the other, to the troops of Vilhi Pashaw, supposed to be as hostile to the Governor as the public enemy, and, with the public enemy immediately in front — yet it was enjoying a profitable and flourishing commerce. The transit being interrupted by the ice in the river, the quantity of goods, particularly bales of cotton, that had accumulated in the warehouses, sheds, and open streets, exceeded credibility. I have been told, that, in the course of last year, above a hundred thousand horse-loads of merchandize passed the river here; and I believe this, to a great extent, from

what I have had opportunities of otherwise knowing. Yet, notwithstanding, and though those employed in the transit tax and charge as they please, there is not a consul in the town, not even an Austrian, or a public French agent or subject. On each horse-load that passes, the Russian general receives forty piastres. The fortifications of Widdin are defensible, but the houses are of wood; and the whole town might, in the course of a night's bombardment, be reduced, literally, to ashes. To what cause are we to ascribe the respite Widdin has enjoyed?

The town was reported to have been well stocked with provisions, which, however, owing to a continual dread of siege, were dealt with so much frugality, that, without actually suffering famine, it presented often the tumults and scenes that accompany that calamity. The bake-houses were only opened at certain hours, and a guard was posted round them to keep the populace in order, who, nevertheless, frequently burst out into dangerous tumults. One day a man was shot at a bake-house almost opposite to my window.

Of the state of society, in a Turkish frontier town, I had not, myself, the means of acquiring any knowledge. But the pashaw's doctor declared that the inhabitants are the most barbarous, vindictive, and dishonest wretches on the face of the earth. He had cured many of them, and could not obtain a single fee. The son of Passwan Oglu lately took a fancy to have a European curricle, and persuaded a young German, who happened to be in the town, to order one for him, with a pair of bred horses, from Vienna. The German procured the carriage and cattle; but, when they arrived, they did not appear to please; and, above all, the price was exorbitant.

Still, from day to day, the enraged German was flattered with an imperfect hope, and the horses, in the mean time, were eating him out of house and hall. At last, young Oglu consented to take them at a fourth part of the original cost. This was considered a very notable feat of jockeyship, both the carriage and horses having, from the first sight, won the heart and admiration of Bashaw Oglu

The vicinity of Christendom does not improve the Turks. Conceiving themselves to be the first class of human beings, their pride is wounded, and their address sharpened, by the necessary intercourse with Europeans. They lose the complacency which, in remote countries, they derive and practise, from their imaginary superiority; and they acquire a malicious cunning, which at once serves to indemnify and to revenge the loss of that deference which they expect and claim from Christians.

The country round Widdin is fertile, and produces excellent wines, similar to those of Hungary. But what avails the liberality of Nature, under the rule of a Turkish viceroy: one, too, who

* It is a slight error that most authors on Turkey commit, in writing Bashaw and Pashaw as if they were titles of the same rank. The former means only Master, in the sense in which it is used by us in addressing a gentleman. Aga, is not only a military title, but is also a term of courtesy, precisely of the nature of Esquire among us. Bey is, exactly, Governor: it is also, in courtesy, similar to Lord, as applied to the sons of the British Earls and higher nobility. A Pashaw of two tails is a Governor with restricted powers; and a Pashaw of three tails has the title of Vizier or Viceroy, as he is the immediate deputy of the Sultan. The Grand Vizier is Viceroy over all.

practises the caprice of a tyrant towards the orders of his sovereign, with as much impunity as upon the wretches whom Providence has mysteriously doomed to suffer beneath his oppression.

While here, I obtained a few brief, but imperfect, notices of the state of the Servians; the sum and substance of which is, that although unanimous against their common foes, the Turks, they are factious and divided among themselves. The same spirit which they have exerted, has spread so rapidly and effectually throughout the whole of Bulgaria, that, if it were not for the presence of the armies, assembled on account of the war, the whole province would, by this time, have been either free, or in triumphant rebellion.

The diminution of fame that has happened to the great chess players of the war of 1756, and the seven years' war in Germany, has lowered the value of military celebrity, especially that kind of it which was in vogue during the greatest part of the last century. It would appear, by the triumphal monuments which the Emperor Joseph caused to be erected to commemorate the campaign of Loudon in the year 1789, that the taking of Belgrade was, in those old times, a very great achievement; because, in the year 1688, Maximilian of Bavaria spent two months in the siege, and lost upwards of thirty thousand men; and Prince Eugene, in 1717, lost forty thousand men on the same ground. Belgrade was, undoubtedly, as Cardinal Wolsey called it, a propugnacious fortress; but, in the year 1789, it could have been no great praise to an Austrian army, to vanquish the rabble rout of the Ottoman empire, if the Austrian army was ever half so fine a thing as our drill serjeants would make us believe. In the seventeenth century the military tactics of

Christendom and Turkey were nearly on a par; but, after the Prussian system came to be generally adopted — that system which made the soldier no more than a piece of the musket, a superiority was gained by the Christians, which the Turks are not likely to attain. From the period of the Duke of Marlborough's campaigns against Louis XIV. down to the French Revolution, the perfection of the military art seems to have lain in taking away from the individuals of armies all the motives of personal glory, and of substituting a regimental spirit for heroism. The ambitious soldier felt, in some degree, promoted, when the corps to which he belonged happened, by the players at the "Royal Game," to be placed in a situation, where the habits which had been acquired by an implicit obedience to the word and sign of the adjutant and flugleman could be shewn to advantage. The war of the French Revolution reduced the mechanical, and repaired the sentimental, constitution of the military. All new systems of tactics seem to possess, in their first impression, a decisive advantage. The prowess of individuals came to be resisted by numbers; numbers by corps; and corps have, in their turn, been subjected to artillery.

In Turkey it is commonly thought, that the slow progress which the Russians make in the war, is owing to the dread of advancing, and to the front that the Ottomans oppose. From all that I heard and observed in the course of my journey, it seemed to me that it would be just as reasonable to ascribe the delay to some settled principle of humane policy in the Russian government. For, the Turkish families, viewing the conquerors with the double animosity of political and religious enmity, universally retire as they approach, abandoning

their habitations, and retreating towards the focus of the empire; and it might be said, that the Russian government wished to afford them time to remove. The respite which Russia gives to the Sultan, is owing to some other consideration than to any apprehension which she ought to entertain of the resistance that he, in his present circumstances, is capable of making. It is insanity to talk of the power of the Ottoman nation in the way which is commonly done. It is like speaking of the strength of a man that dozes to death, stricken in every limb with the palsy. Yet much of the raw material of a great nation exists in Turkey; but all the machinery for turning it into effect is falling asunder. The great protector, at present, of this empire, is France. Her views and projects are not yet sufficiently matured, to induce her to act otherwise; and, by the skilful administration of hope and fear to the cabinets of Constantinople and Petersburg, she deters the one and encourages the other. While fear continues to be the principle of ruling mankind, the British can have, in these times, but little real ascendancy in Constantinople. The divan is perfectly aware of the disposition of France; but the renown of the French arms influences every member. The comfort of the Ottoman statesmen lies more in the unsettled frame of Christendom, than in the strength of Turkey. France also knows, that if she urge the Porte to declare against us, we shall then take possession of the Levant islands. It is this consideration that has induced her to be less peremptory on the subject, than some of our statesmen, in order to enhance their own consequence, pretend. While the numerous Ottoman islands remain in their present defenceless condition, let us not believe that it is British diplomatists

who prevent the Porte from embracing the continental system. France is well informed of the true state of them all; and she knows, that, if they fall into our hands, such is the feeling of their inhabitants, that we shall soon be induced to organize them into a part of our dominions. I shall not be surprised, if, before peace be made, between the Turks and Russians, matters be so managed, as that the Turks shall appear to regain part of their lost territory, by force of arms. France will so menace Russia, as to induce her to diminish her army on the left bank of the Danube, and the Turks will then make head. It is melancholy to think how the fates and fortunes of thousands are disposed of, to preserve the consistency of a few despicable politicians!

RETURN TO CONSTANTINOPLE.

The morning of the day on which I left Widdin, a rapid thaw had commenced, and it was twelve o'clock before I found myself ready to quit the town. The horses were not good, and the road was deep and slippery. The picture of a man perishing in the snow has been drawn by Thomson: the dangers of a traveller, in a thaw at night, would not have been less impressive, by the same pencil. The tracks in the snow, which, during the frost, had been converted into highways, were now turned into canals of water; and we were obliged to seek new paths, at the risk that attended the first adventurers. The streams which had been frozen, but of which the ice, by the continual thoroughfare of passengers, had been, in many places, broken, were full and rapid; and the horses, in passing, several times suddenly plunged up to the belly. To all these

were added, a lowering sky, a wet night, and cattle that we had much reason to fear would founder, and leave us on the road.

It was past ten o'clock when we reached the khan, in Kaaralom, which I was agreeably surprised to find a handsome new building. The apartment was much superior to the room in the cottage where I had formerly slept. It was also warmed by a stove; and the Greek who had charge of it, notwithstanding the lateness of the hour, procured us beans, stewed with oil; which, being hot, proved exceedingly savoury.

Early next morning, we were again under weigh. The weather had changed in the night, and the morning was sharp and fine. We halted at a village to take some refreshment; and, while the bread was baking, a young woman, of very ordinary structure, came and kissed our hands, beginning with a Tartar, whom I got from the pasha of Widdin, to conduct me to Sophia. Her hair was hung full of paras, large massy bracelets of silver were on her arms, and her fingers were loaded with Brobdingnagian rings of the same metal. She was a bride, adorned with all her dowry, which, independent of the paras in her hair, could not be less than several pounds weight of silver.

At Kootloftsa we passed the night much in the same manner as we had done before, but in a different cottage. In the morning, being anxious to reach the summit of the mountains that day, we departed two hours before sun-rise; but had scarcely proceeded half a mile, when a dreadful sleety shower came on, which wet me to the skin, and chilled me to the heart. Unable to continue the journey, we sought shelter, just as the day began to dawn, in a cottage, on the

banks of a troubled and roaring torrent. Owing to the violence of the thaw, the roof was dropping a heavy shower; and the inhabitants, shivering and cowering round their fire, were scarcely more comfortable than ourselves. The scene only served to make the mind suffer as keenly as the frame.

In the corner of the cottage a cask of wine was discovered, which, with a little persuasion, was broached. The wine was not yet well thawed; but a pan and the fire supplied what the backwardness of the season had denied. As the day advanced, the sleet became gradually changed entirely to snow, and the cheerfulness inspired by the hot wine induced us to take the road. We reached Belkoftsa about nine o'clock in the morning; where a warm room, and a blazing fire in the governor's house, induced me to remain for the day. In the afternoon the snow ceased to fall, and the evening set in clear and frosty.

At Belkoftsa we got good horses, and reached, earlier than I expected, the table-land above the forest of the mountains, which I have already described. Since my former journey, the snow had increased greatly. The road, which the caravans for Widdin served to keep open, was contracted to a trench, and the snow, on each side, reached as high as the shoulders of the horses. The day, though excessively cold, was beautiful; and a smart breeze, which occasionally rose, often changed the form of the landscape. In the course of the late fall, the snow, in many places, and on the sides of the precipices, had drifted to a great height. The wind sometimes seized the high curling crests of these fictitious hills, and dispersed them like smoke, opening new views as they disappeared.

At the post where we formerly slept, we halted to take coffee. Our horses not appearing greatly tired, we resolved to proceed to Sophia, which we reached about eight o'clock at night. The distance from Belkoftsa is eighteen hours, of the post rate; but it is not an extraordinary ride, in good weather, to perform it in twelve.

The old bishop was exceedingly dejected on account of the renewal of hostilities, and the taking of Loftsa, with the whole flower of Vilhi Pashaw's army, amounting, as I was told, to thirteen thousand men. What afflicted the bishop, and not him only, but all the other Christians, was an apprehension that the Turks might, in revenge for this loss, and to provide against the known disposition of the inhabitants, think of perpetrating a general massacre. Vilhi Pashaw himself, with his staff, had left the town.

In the morning the snow again began to fall; but, anxious to quicken my escape from the seat of war and from such fearful apprehensions, I bade the bishop a final adieu. It was impossible, without a feeling of peculiar sorrow, to leave this interesting, accomplished, helpless old man, in a situation which, even in peace and summer, afforded him no pleasure; but where he suffered a living death, with the fears of life and the infirmities of age.

We halted for the night at Yengi-Khan; for the roads were so heavy, that we could make but slow progress. Next day we proceeded, during a terrible wind and drifting snow, to Ightiman, our strength being reinforced by an additional Tartar, on his way to Constantinople. We only halted at Bazerjeek to change horses, and rode to Philippopoli in the dark, passing the monumental mounds of Brutus and Cassius. The night was gloomy, the ground covered

with snow; and I began to think that my evil genius, like that of Brutus, had resolved to meet me at Philippi.

On the ninth day after my departure from Widdin, having crossed the Hebros at Mustar Pashaw, on the ice, I again reached Adrianople. It was my intention to have gone, by a boat, to Enos, and thence to the Dardanelles; but the uncommon rigour of the season had frozen the river, and I saw no chance of passing that way in any reasonable time.

Between Adrianople and the capital we met a band of several hundred Albanians, returning from an annual visit, which they had been paying to their friends and families. They were part of a numerous body of labourers in Constantinople, among whom there is an agreement, that the one half shall return home alternately, six months at a time.

The rovings of this hardy and singular people seem to be the blind gropings of a military spirit. In their character they certainly resemble the Turks more than the Greeks; but what is solemn in the Turk, is stern in the Albanian.

In reflecting on the circumstances of the extensive tract of country through which I have passed, with my imperfect knowledge of its history, I am inclined to consider Bulgaria as a region which has never yet emerged from barbarism. Though, from the earliest times, the seat of wars, it exhibits none of those traces of permanent posts of defence, which are so common in other contested lands. The eye of the traveller searches in vain for the tower on the steep, and the beacon on the hill. It has nothing even similar to the little castles, of the chieftains, which are so numerous in Maina; nor are

there to be seen, entire or in ruins, any structures resembling the baronial residences in the west of Europe. The towns present a slovenly spectacle of hovels, the hereditary abodes of poverty and ignorance. The churches are uniformly mean and neglected; and the inhabitants have none of those little domestic imitations of superior elegance, which, in countries where society is found in a greater variety of forms and conditions, serve to embellish the festivals of the peasantry.

A VOYAGE.

I left Constantinople on the fourth of March, in a small vessel bound for Scio. We had scarcely passed the castle of the Seven Towers, when the wind became so light, that we made very little way. In the morning we had anchored among the Prince's Islands. The appearance of these islands, from the sea, is flattering and inviting. The rocks are covered with bushes, and the face of the land is rural and luxuriant; but it is not productive, nor does it admit of general cultivation. We lay here two days: on the third a slight breeze arose, and carried us as far as Marmara, where we again came to anchor, near a village situated on the shore. The fields round this village were well inclosed, and neatly cultivated. In the evening we again weighed anchor, and found ourselves, at day-light, off Gallipoli. As the wind promised to continue, we did not stop here: we had however only passed a few miles, when it fell calm. We landed at Ohardac, on the Asiatic side, a dirty straggling town; but the vicinity is agreeably diversified with hill and dale, and is in a delightful state of cultivation.

I saw here several fragments of antiquity, particularly a small white marble Corinthian capital, not much the worse for the wear, which serves as a seat at an old woman's door.

THE HELLESPONT.

The Hellespont, like the Bosphorus, resembles a large river. The banks are picturesque, and in several places alluring. The wind blew strong while we touched at the town of the Dardanelles; and I saw no likelihood of being recompensed for the ducking that I might suffer in going and coming from the vessel: I therefore did not land. The captain having paid his dues, we again got under weigh; and, about an hour before sun-set, were passing the all-celebrated coast of the Troad.

There is more pleasure in the reflection of having resisted temptation, than there is glory in the attainment of any pleasure. I passed within hail of the Grecian camp, without desiring to be put on shore. It is true, that the wind was favourable for our voyage, and that the captain, very likely, without some enormous inducement, would not have consented to land me: it is also no less true, that I was perfectly convinced that I should see nothing. However, it is as well, like the stoics, to ascribe that to one's own virtue, which is in a great measure owing to the necessity of circumstances. A Greek of Scio, who had been over the whole Troad, pointed out to me, on a rising ground to the south of that part of the coast which is opposite to Tenedos, what appeared to be the indistinct remains of walls and towers, perhaps those of the city which Constantine founded, before he fixed on the site of Byzantium. It is quite certain that there

can be no trace of Ilion remaining. A wooden town, surrounded by a wall ten or twelve feet high, and probably not more than two in thickness, is not likely to furnish many relics, after a lapse of three thousand years. The Greek had not read Homer, but he had read the Romaic translation of Telemachus, and was not ignorant of the main parts of the tale of Troy, which he totally and entirely disbelieved. "What lies," said he, "these poets do write! there never were any such gods as they describe."—Yet this man credited more extraordinary fictions than either Homer or Fenelon invented! He appeared to be a devout believer in the legendary lore of the Greek church.

"Stones have been known to move, and trees to talk," says Shakespear; but what are moving stones or talking trees, nay, even the creeping tripod itself, to those old teeth which have cured famines, and those chips of wood that have deterred the approach of pestilence?

TENEDOS.

In the course of coming down the Hellespont, I was led to reflect both on the circumstances and the derelict political motives of that disgraceful expedition, which our government sent, some years ago, against Constantinople. Unless it were with an insane hope of seizing the city, it is impossible even to imagine why the fleet was ordered on so hazardous a service as the passing of the castles; because the possession of Tenedos would have enabled us to have shut the straits, while the Black Sea could have been as effectively closed by Russia, for whose ends and aims we rashly entered into that unprovoked,

most unjust and ignominious war. Constantinople, prevented from obtaining her usual supplies by the Bosphorus and the Hellespont, must, in a few days, have been compelled, by famine, to have assented to any terms that were intended to have been dictated. But the whole measure, deservedly, proved abortive.

The time is, perhaps, not distant, when we may have a real occasion for a squadron in the Archipelago; it is, therefore, to be hoped that we shall then make ourselves masters of Tenedos, and fortify it, with the fixed resolution of keeping it to the utmost. Tenedos is not only the key of the Dardanelles, but of the gulph of Enos, and also of the mouth of the river Hebros, by which the rice and grain, from the most fertile tract of European Turkey, are sent to the capital. With continental expeditions we have nothing, legitimately, to do; our proper policy is insular; and the utility of our operations depends on the points which we make of primary importance.

As the evening closed, the wind became so strong, that the captain, according to the classic practice, deemed it prudent to come to anchor, in a creek of the Phrygian shore, about twenty miles to the south of Troy. At day-break we again weighed anchor, and, passing along the outside of the island of Mytelene, reached Scio in the evening. At Scio I next day hired a boat for Smyrna; but the wind came against us before we were well clear of the harbour, and obliged us to put into one of the islands that lie at the northern mouth of the channel. In the course of the night a violent gale came on, and forced us to run into a better sheltered creek, where we lay all the next day. On the following morning, the wind still continuing, several large vessels came in; and, among others, a ship from Leghorn

bound to Smyrna. The uncomfortableness of my situation in the boat, with a slight indisposition, the effect of cold, induced me to apply to the ship from Leghorn to take me on board, to which the captain readily consented. She was a Greek, belonging to Ipsera. The captain, who was a shrewd clever man, gave me a lamentable description of the state of Leghorn, and of the penury and distress which the inhabitauts are suffering.

After we had wearied, during three days, the weather began to moderate, and we put to sea. We were soon, however, again unfortunate; for the wind changed suddenly, and compelled us to run into port Dolphin, in Scio, where we lay other three days; in the course of which I made excursions round the port and through the interior of the island. Port Dolphin is either the crater of a tumbled-in volcano, or has been formed by streams of lava ejected from the bottom of the sea, or from the mountains of the interior. The appearance of the land round it is rugged and rocky in the extreme; but, from the shore, a small valley runs a considerable way up into the island: it is cultivated by the spade. From a piece of lava, like the stone which Moses tapped in the wilderness, a plentiful stream issues, which serves to turn a mill. The water is cool and limpid in its course, but tepid where it flows from the chink in the lava. When kept a day or two, it acquires a slight mineral flavour.

The pathway, into the interior, lies through this valley; and after winding, for a considerable way in the bottom, passes over a rugged steep and along a ridge of sharp and bare rocks. The view of the country, in advancing along this height, becomes less dreary. Small inclosures are, here and there, discovered; and now, and then, a ham-

let, with a church or a windmill. At the foot of a precipitous conical mountain, on which an ancient watch-tower is airily stationed, and at the head of a valley, diversified with trees and gardens, stands the little town of Cardanus. A small bridge, over a clear and rapid stream, leads to the town; and the ruins of a castle, in the centre of the buildings, increases the picturesque effect of the scene. The town itself has originally been walled; but the houses have now extended beyond the ancient bounds, and the entire circumference is no longer visible from the heights.

In Cardanus there are six churches, and about fifty persons dedicated to their service; poor and ignorant bodies, who labour more in the fields of the neighbourhood than in the Lord's vineyard. The population of the town exceeds a thousand souls; but probably does not reach fifteen hundred. One of the priests keeps a school; and the children, in general, are taught to read and write. They are taught by lessons written on papers, which they learn to read and copy at the same time. When the pupil is master of a paper, the teacher is paid a shilling. The reward of the master, accordingly, keeps pace with the proficiency of the pupil. This is not only just, but the mode is ingenious, and the effect of the instruction secure.—It is proper to add, that the Greeks do not understand that their little parochial seminaries, as they may be called, deserve the dignified title of schools. To that epithet they attach the ideas that we have of a college; and, therefore, in asking for their schools, it is necessary to describe what is meant.

Scio, formerly, was said to consist of three parts, of which two were regarded as incurable stone; but the island continuing to flou-

rish, and the population to increase, it is now supposed that very nearly the half of the whole surface has been rendered productive. In many places the industry of the inhabitants even exceeds, if possible, that of the Maltese.

SMYRNA.

After being no less than ten days from the city of Scio, I reached Smyrna. During the short time that I staid here, my attention was directed to obtain a comparative view of the state of the British trade to this port, before and since the surrender of Malta, for the purpose of completing an estimate, which I was desirous of making, of the importance of our commercial relations with Turkey. But the result of my inquiries was not so full, nor so satisfactory, as I could have wished. The following general facts, however, will not be uninteresting.

Before the surrender of Malta, from twenty-five to thirty ships came annually from London, loaded, chiefly, with refined sugar, shalloons, coffee, indigo, lead-shot, tin and tin plates, with dying woods, &c. Shalloons were then the chief article of the trade; and the annual importation of them, for the market of Smyrna alone, was, seldom, under thirty thousand pieces, and, frequently, amounted even to fifty thousand. At present, from one thousand to two thousand pieces are fully sufficient for the demand. The decline of the shalloon trade is owing to the improvement which the natives have made in the manufacture of that article. The shalloons of Asia Minor, particularly those of Angora, far surpass ours in the beauty of colours, and greatly indeed in the beauty of texture; and they can

be brought to the market at a much lower rate. In dyes these countries have always excelled; and the materials for every species of common manufactures are indigenous.

Since the surrender of Malta, the direct trade with London has been regularly declining. Last year only five or six ships arrived. It may be asserted, that there is not, at present, one regular trader between London and Smyrna. The Americans abundantly supply the market with many articles, which, since the French Revolution, came from England; and, prior to that event, from Marseilles. One ship came last year direct from Rio Janeiro.

Our cloths, which, in the early period of the Levant Company, formed an article of the very first consequence of the trade, have, now, almost entirely ceased to be an object of any consideration. Thirty bales are fully sufficient for the annual consumption; and even that small quantity is so heavy in the disposal, that six and eight months' credit is necessary to entice purchasers—a circumstance, in itself, considering the uncertain state of our relations with Turkey, sufficient to deter the merchants from having any thing to do with cloths. Throughout the Levant, this trade has fallen off to an equal degree in every other port. In Constantinople, it may be said to have wholly ceased; in Aleppo it is not now known. The Aleppo trade depended on the demand from Persia; but since the East-India Company, by their charter, have been obliged to take, yearly, a certain quantity of cloth, which they as regularly sell at a loss, the Persians have been supplied from Hindoostan, by the effects of this forced trade, cheaper than when they were obliged to have recourse to a natural market. The French cloths, which, about twenty years ago, were so

generally preferred in the Levant, have also greatly fallen off. The cloths, both of England and France, have been superseded by those of Germany—particularly by the Aix-la-Chapelle goods; the cheapness of which, though the colours be not so durable as those of the French and English dyers, procures a decided preference. But if we have lost in one branch of trade, we have every prospect of being amply indemnified in another. Our cotton goods are daily rising in request and estimation. To those concerned in the trade, the result, however, has not yet been advantageous, owing to the article having been, in many respects, unsuitable to the market. Since the peace with Turkey, in 1809, the value of British cottons, sold in Smyrna alone, has, probably, amounted to little less than one hundred and eighty thousand pounds sterling. Before the war, this was but a very trifling branch of the trade.

To our shipping interest, in what respects the Levant trade, the acquisition of Malta has not been advantageous; for a great part of the business is carried on in Greek bottoms. Estimating by the voyages, collectively, it might be made to appear, that the number of British vessels employed in the trade was so far, perhaps, from being diminished, that it was increased; but the number of vessels, actually employed, is, beyond all question, reduced. Our trade with Turkey, I consider, as never having yet attained its maximum. Many of the productions of these climates are but little known to our merchants; and the restrictions and monopolies, which an infirm and corrupt government occasion, prevent the natives from attempting those speculations which might bring the riches of their climate into notice and use. We want a free insular establishment in

the Levant: insular, that it may be under the protection of our own men of war; and free, that the enterprizes of the merchants may not be tramelled by the regulations of a general company.

A VOYAGE.

I left Smyrna, on the second of April, in a boat, for Scio, for which I paid twenty-five piastres. The distance is about a hundred miles. The wind was fair; but, in the evening, it fell quite calm, and we rowed into a little port, on the south side of the gulph of Smyrna. Within the port there is a small mole, the relic of some maritime power, before the conquest by the Turks.

In the morning, with a slight but favourable breeze, we got under way. About noon the wind rose against us; and, blowing strongly, obliged us to take shelter in a nook, among the rocks, near the southern Cape, at the entrance of the gulf. Here we found several other boats sheltering. A young Turk came from the hills, with a speculation of six eggs: two of the eggs he happened to break by the way, nevertheless he insisted on having the same price for the remaining four, that he had set on the six. The Turks in Asia I have uniformly found a simple and honest race. Docile, industrious, and courteous (it is necessary to add courteous, because a Turk always regards Christians as inferior beings), they seem not to be of the same nature as the fierce, idle, and arrogant tyrants of Romalia. Even the Greeks speak of the Turks of this part of the empire, not with detestation, but only with contempt.

Next morning we reached Scio, after having touched at the coast opposite to the city. In the course of this little voyage, I observed several marks of that process by which we may conceive the distribution of property to have taken place in the early stages of civilization. When a fisherman has found a good fishing station, he fixes, in the presence of witnesses, a small tree, lopped of its branches, in a cleft of the rock, and the adjacent water, as long as he preserves the tree, is considered as his property. Several of the trees are sanctified by the nests of sea-fowls; an unquestionable sign of the spot being peculiarly blessed, in the opinion of the Turks. Perhaps even a philosopher might think, that the sea-fowl had the same reason as the fishermen for preferring the station.

Although I was, several times, in the island of Scio, I never visited the ancient fabric, which has received the name of Homer's School. It is said that Homer finished the *Odyssey* in Scio; but it was in Smyrna that he kept his school; whether, like Milton, for private students, or for the parish fry, the inventors of his biography do not say. Be this as it may, he was in no great repute as a school-master; probably the natural irascibility of a poet unfitted him for practising the patience necessary "to teach the young idea how to shoot."

IDRA.

Idra, as far as my recollection serves, was not of any consequence in the brilliant periods of Grecian history. The present city originated in a small colony of boatmen belonging to the Morea, who took

refuge here from the tyranny of the Turks. About forty years ago they had multiplied to a considerable number; their little village began to assume the appearance of a town, and they had vessels that went as far as Constantinople.

In their mercantile transactions, the Idriots acquired the reputation of greater integrity than the other Greeks, as well as of being the most intrepid navigators in the Archipelago; and they were, of course, regularly preferred. Their honesty and industry obtained its reward. When the French revolution broke out, they had several large ships, which they loaded with grain, and sent to France, during the scarcity which prevailed at the beginning of the late war. The profit arising from these voyages enabled them to increase the number of their shipping; and they now possess eighty ships, of more than two hundred and fifty tons, besides several hundreds of smaller vessels and wherries. They have two or three ships, not inferior, in strength and size, to frigates. At Malta and Messina, I was told that the number of the Idriot shipping was much greater; but this was a mistake, arising from considering vessels belonging to the islands of Specia, Paros, Myconi, and Ipsera, as Idriots. These islands resemble Idra in their institutions; and the inhabitants possess the same character for commercial activity.

In paying their sailors, Idra and its sister islands have a peculiar custom. The whole amount of the freight is considered as a common stock, from which the charges of victualling the ship are deducted. The remainder is then divided into two equal parts; one is allotted to the crew, and equally shared among them, without reference to age or rank. The other part is appropriated to the ship and the captain.

The capital of the cargo is a trust, given to the captain and the crew on certain fixed conditions. For all voyages to the Levant, a profit of twenty *per cent.* on their respective shares, is allowed to the contributors of the capital, and the same in voyages which do not extend to the westward beyond Malta and Sicily; but in voyages to France and Spain, within the straits, thirty *per cent.* is given. All the profit, after paying the capitalists, is divided on the same principle, and by the same rule, as a freight earned by charter. Losses, by accidents of navigation, are sustained by the capitalists; but those arising from bad sales, fall on the captain and the crew, who are obliged to make good the deficiency. The first time that I visited this island, there was a vessel in the port, which, by an unsuccessful voyage, had incurred a loss of no less than four thousand pounds sterling; and this sum the crew and captain were then making good to the capitalists.

The Idriots never insure their ships or cargoes. The vessels, generally, belong to a great number of persons, and some of the capitalists have only five or ten pounds sterling embarked in one bottom. The value of their several shares is not of sufficient importance to induce the owners to think of insuring them. In the early period of their history, to purchase a cargo of grain, for it is, chiefly, by their trade in that article, that the Idriots have acquired their wealth, was, in some sort, a public undertaking. The whole community was concerned in it.

The character and manners of the common Idriot sailors, from the moral effect of these customs, is much superior, in regularity, to the ideas that we are apt to entertain of sailors. They are sedate,

well dressed, well bred, shrewd, informed, and speculative. They seem to form a class, in the orders of mankind, which has no existence among us. By their voyages, they acquire a liberality of notion, which we expect only among gentlemen; while, in their domestic circumstances, their conduct is suitable to their condition. The Greeks are all traditionary historians, and possess much of that kind of knowledge to which the term "learning" is usually applied. This, mingled with the other information of the Idriots, gives them that advantageous character of mind, which, I think, they possess.

The town is, certainly, a very extraordinary place. The houses rise from the border of the port, which is in the form of a horse-shoe, in successive tiers, to a great height, and many of them appear on the pinnacles of cliffs which would make a Bath or an Edinburgh garreteer giddy to look from. The buildings are all brightly white-washed; and a number of windmills being, almost constantly, in motion on the heights, the effect of the scene, with the addition of the bustle on the wharfs below, is, at once, surprising, and uncommonly cheerful.

There are upwards of forty parochial churches in the town; and two of them are adorned with handsome steeples. Idra forms part of the diocese of Egina and Paros, one of the richest bishopries of Greece. The nett income is estimated at upwards of six hundred pounds sterling. The episcopal residence is in Egina, but the bishop visits Idra every year. The population of the town is said to exceed twenty thousand souls; and I think it is not exaggerated.

There were, when I was there, no public schools but those of the parochial priests. Eight of the principal inhabitants had procured

an Italian master for their children, to whom they paid about seventy-five pounds sterling *per annum.*

Though the poor are numerous, there is no public provision for them; but the charity of individuals is liberal; and many allot the profits of a share of their vessels, and even sometimes more, to be regularly distributed among the needful.

All goods, I may say every thing that is necessary for the subsistence of man, as the island produces nothing, pay here a duty of two and a half *per cent.* This serves as a fund for public uses; and for any extraordinary demands, which the exigencies of the sultan may require. In addition to this, every man capable of bearing arms pays about three shillings sterling *per annum* of tribute. The Porte is contented with this moderate tax, in consequence of the Idriots furnishing a number of sailors for the Turkish navy. They furnished two hundred and fifty sailors last year, whom they paid at the rate of about fifty shillings per man monthly. On some occasions, a subscription has been raised, to help the insufficiency of the ordinary revenue.

It can hardly be said that this little state, for such it deserves to be considered, as it is governed by rulers of its own choosing, and is rather under the protection of the sultan than subject to his immediate authority, has any laws; but it has many usages, which have all the force of laws. Litigated questions are decided by the magistrates collectively, whose awards are recorded in the chancery of the city, and become precedents. Ordinary delinquents are punished by the magistrates; but greater criminals, after conviction, are sent to Constantinople, with the authenticated evidence of their

offences. Property in houses is exchanged by documents, of which copies are lodged in the chancery; thus giving clearness and stability to the rights of proprietors, like that which is afforded by the institution of the Register Office in Scotland. For the security of the rights of property in vessels, a book is kept by one of the owners, and in it all that relates to the ship is recorded—a common practice in the British dominions, before the general Registry Act was passed. It is surprising, that in England, where both persons and things possess greater security than in any other country in the world, the transfer of the perishable property of vessels is better regulated than the property of the soil itself.

A JOURNEY.

From Idra I sailed up the Gulph of Argos, passing the island and town of Specia. The island seemed to be green and pretty, but not much cultivated: the town had a new and thriving appearance. Like Idra, as I have already said, the inhabitants are entirely devoted to maritime trade; and their houses, like those of the Idriots, have a European aspect. We passed also near the mouth of the port of Bisati, a capacious and well sheltered harbour on the east side of the gulph. How many excellent ports in these parts are but little known, and less frequented than they are known! I had expected, the same day, to have reached Napoli Romania; but the wind fell calm, and we put into Heili, or the eel-port, a shallow creek, which derives its name from the number of these creatures that are found in it.

While waiting until horses were procured, I walked a little way from the boat towards an old arch, which I had observed. Not heed-

ing, very particularly, at first, as I passed along, I was surprised to hear, on all sides, an increasing buz and hum, so truly prodigious, that it seemed to me at last, as I proceeded, to be only comparable to the noise of the Egyptian plague of flies. On looking round, I was still more astonished to find myself in the midst of at least five hundred bee-hives, covered with earth, and forming several cities, towns, and villages, the property of different proprietors. The sides of the neighbouring hills are covered with flowers and blossoming shrubs; and it is the custom of the peasants of the country to bring their hives from a considerable distance, for the bees to feed and collect here. Before we were ready to mount, a boat arrived, with upwards of a dozen additional hives.

I did not pass through Napoli Romania, as it lay at some distance on the left of the road which I took, and I was anxious to reach Argos in time to make another stage the same day. As far as beautiful scenery and fine weather can render any journey agreeable to an impatient traveller, I had every reason, in coming across the country to Voztitza, to be pleased with mine.

At a short distance from Voztitza, we encountered a patrol of Albanians, who have their station five hours distant from the town, in order to guard the road, through an extensive wood of olive-trees, near wild and Alpine breaks in the mountains, from which banditti frequently issue on the passengers. In general, however, robberies are rare now within the territories of Ali Pasha'w's family; and no country may be travelled with more safety, at present, than the Morea.

Among others that joined us, with the patrol, in passing through the wood, was a peasant, evidently in an advanced stage of dropsy. He told me, that his father had died of a similar complaint, but differing from his, in this remarkable respect — the father's continued to grow regularly worse, without any intervals of alleviation; but, at the change of the moon, the son felt comparatively much easier. As the moon advanced to the full, the swelling enlarged; and as she waned, it again lessened. Still, however, though this alternation continued, the disease was gaining ground; and, for several years, he had not enjoyed the satisfaction of perspiration. The moon has, or is believed to have, much more to say in the affairs of these parts, than with us. The climate is more regular; and if the air have tides, like the ocean, of course their effects are more perceptible.

Not far from Voztitza, we passed the dry channel of an occasional torrent, between the ruins of two extensive bridges. On my arrival, I hired a boat for Patras, where I was landed, after being rowed ten hours. We passed close under the walls of the castle on the south side of the entrance into the gulph of Corinth. It is a considerable and extensive fortification; and might, without much trouble, be rendered as formidable as any of the castles of the Dardanelles. With the possession of this fortress, and the island of Porus, in the gulph of Egina, a naval power, with a small force, to defend the isthmus of Corinth, might take and keep possession of the Morea.

MISOLOGIO.

Hearing, at Patras, that there was a vessel loaded, at Misologio, for Messina, I crossed over, in order to avail myself of the opportunity. Misologio is a town of about five thousand inhabitants, in the pashawate of Carnia, of which Muctar Pashaw, the eldest son of Ali Pashaw, is the nominal governor; the father being, in fact, the sovereign of all Greece, except of Athens, and a portion of ancient Attica, which holds from the chief eunuch of the imperial seraglio in Constantinople.

The situation of Misologio is exceedingly disagreeable, being on a swampy flat, scarcely above the level of the sea. The sea, except in a narrow channel, for about two miles from the shore, is scarcely more than twenty inches in depth. This extensive shallow reaches along the coast for many miles, and is paled in for a wear. I have been told that the paling extends upwards of forty Turkish miles in length; that it has existed from time immemorial; and that it is kept in repair by the farmers of the fishery. This year (1811) the fishery is farmed by forty persons, who pay to the vizir, Ali Pashaw, upwards of three thousand five hundred pounds sterling. They sub-let this right to the fishermen, who pay as much as they can afford, besides making a scanty and bare livelihood for themselves. One young man told me that he paid two hundred piastres, equal to ten pounds of our money. His father, who knew the ground better, paid three hundred. There are others, who pay as high as five hundred for their individual permission. To them, it is not a profitable business; but they are the labourers; and, in most professions, the

labourers can but maintain their existence. Only those men who contrive to collect the surplus of the individuals, grow rich. In Misologio, one of the priests teaches the literary Greek. The children, generally, as in the other parts of Greece, are taught Romaic and writing by the parochial clergy.

The inhabitants wear the Albanian dress; and, though they complain grievously of the taxes, admit the justice and the vigour of Ali Pashaw's government. I ought not to omit mentioning, that there is a small fortification opposite to the town, about two miles distant from the shore, from which it might be approached by wading. It seems to have been intended to protect the channel in the shallow; but the openings for the guns are directed so much the wrong way, that it may be described as a squinting fort. The Turks have many fortresses that they regard as useless; but this, for a recent work, is the most useless of all that I have seen. The guns have not yet been mounted.

The articles exported from Misologio are similar to those which are usually sent from Patras and Lepanto. It has lately begun to send wool to Sicily: the improving manufactures of that island being deprived of the supplies which were formerly procured from Calabria. The wool of Misologio, though low priced, is not so inferior in quality as might be supposed, from the rates at which it is usually sold. It is gathered from the fleeces without skill, and packed up for exportation as it is gathered. No care is bestowed to select the fine; and the foul seems to be as much valued, by the gatherers, as the clean. All the productions of Turkey in Europe, perhaps it may be correctly added, of Turkey in general, are made up for exportation with less art, and certainly too with less honesty,

than those of any other country with which we are in habits of commercial intercourse. The Greeks, constantly aiming to over-reach, never think of securing a regular preference in the market, but only for taking advantage of momentary circumstances. The indolence of the Turks leads them to practise the same system. The moralist may discriminate between the culpability of the two; but the merchant, who suffers the effects, will not be more contented in his dealings with the Turk than with the Greek, although the carelessness of the one does not proceed from the same nefarious principles as the tricks of the other.

While waiting at Misologio, until the paschal holidays were over, for the vessel in which I had engaged my passage to Messina would not depart sooner, nor could I persuade any of the boatmen to carry me to Zante, I was, naturally enough, led to contemplate the events and circumstances which had led the British nation to take possession of the islands immediately in view from the windows of my apartment. Accidental occurrences, in the course of the time that I had been absent from England, induced me, as opportunity offered, to make a number of historical notes; and happening to turn over my memorandum-book, I found, by a slight arrangement, modified by the reflections into which I had fallen, that one class assumed the following form. They were not, certainly, made originally with any idea of being connected with this work; but the general inference bore so fully upon many of the incidental remarks in the narrative, that they scarcely required any alteration of language, to become a very suitable conclusion to the present work. As such, I have therefore introduced them; but here I close my narrative.

POLITICAL REFLECTIONS.

At no period since the breaking up of the universal jurisdiction to which the popes pretended, has the political state of Europe presented so simple a form as it does at this time. The whole directing influence has been acquired by one power; and, whatever may be the number of nominal potentates, there is, in fact, only one ruler on the continent. But this ascendancy of France has been so coercively obtained, and is supported by such a disregard of individual interests, that, in the nature of things, it cannot last long.

It is not deniable, that the influence of France is less, at this time, than it was two years ago. It may still be as vigorously exercised over her vassal cabinets; but it is not admitted, with the same implicit feeling, by the people of Europe; and from this change in moral sentiment, a political alteration must, necessarily, proceed.

France, both from her situation and character, has long been the great influential nation of the continent. Her central situation makes her the natural barrier to the ambition of the other nations; but her enterprizing character makes her more dangerous to them all than any other, while her position facilitates the execution of her schemes. The rivalry, however, with which she is regarded by Britain, counteracts the effects that arise from her character. Britain, by her situation, is enabled to become the ally of the enemies of France, in such a manner as greatly to impair the advantage which France

derives from her place on the continent. The weight of Britain, in the political scale, lessens so much the preponderancy of France, that the independence of other nations depends on the opposition which she is enabled to afford. There is, therefore, a natural predisposition in all the continental nations, arising wholly from political considerations, to connect themselves with Britain.

France, by her central situation, is immediately interested in the movements of all the surrounding states; and is necessitated to take a lively interest, and an active share, in all their intentions. Britain, by her insular position, not being immediately affected by the political fluctuations of the continent, is the natural arbiter of the disputes among the continental nations.

France has, under no change of circumstances, ever altered her settled purpose, to become the ruling nation of the continent. This ambition is the actuating principle of French policy; and, in successive wars, during a course of upwards of three hundred years, it has been so clearly manifested, that it cannot be ascribed to the fantasy of any individual, however extraordinary his fortunes or his measures.

This national passion of France is of great antiquity; though not observable, in any authentic form, earlier than the reigns of the Tudors in England *. Henry VII. of England could not pretend to the inheritance of the crown of France, merely upon his right as a

Charlemagne was succeeded by his son, Lewis I. who became Emperor of the West, and King of France. Barnardo, king of Italy, resisted this usurpation; but, being unable to contend against imperial power, submitted, and was brought

successor of Henry VI.; but only by reviving the ancient claim of the Plantagenets, in right of his wife Elizabeth, the daughter of Edward IV. He was too much occupied with the establishing of his own throne, to think of reviving so obsolete a claim. The French monarchs, being thus relieved from the ancient pretensions of the English kings, turned their attention to the recovery of that grand pre-eminence which, they believed, they had inherited from Lewis I.

Charles VII. of France married the daughter of Lewis II. king of Naples, by whom he had Lewis XI. his successor on the throne of France. This Lewis, after a turbulent reign, was succeeded by his son Charles VIII. in whose time began those famous Italian wars, of which Guicciardini has written the history. He pretended, that Naples had been ceded to his grandfather (although his father had never set forth this claim), and, on that pretence, demanded the feudal submission of the kingdom. He collected an army, and proceeded to Rome as rapidly as General Buonaparté, where he was acknowledged, by Pope Alexander VI. to be Emperor of the West. He then went forward to Naples, having subdued or intimidated all the principalities of Italy, and seated himself on the throne; but the Italian states recovering courage, the Neapolitans rebelled; and the Pope, with the Republic of Venice, and the Duke of Milan, leagued

before the French emperor, who, being a quick-tempered personage, ordered Barnardo's eyes to be torn out. This took place in the year 818; and, ever since that event, the Kings of France have never ceased to cherish the wish and hope of being Emperors of the West. Napoleon has exercised authorities, which he affirms that he inherited as a successor of Charlemagne.

to intercept his return to France, and gave him battle at Tornovo, where, however, they were defeated; but he had not much to boast of by the victory. He died in 1498. Thus ended the first direct attempt of France to recover her ancient pretended superiority.

Charles VIII. was succeeded by his cousin, the Duke of Orleans, Lewis XII. who adopted the pretensions of his predecessor on Italy. But Maximilian, the German emperor, who was fully as active, and no less ambitious, greatly thwarted his schemes; and the Italian states and princes, headed by the martial Pope Julius II. comprehending all the project, opposed him with unexpected vigour and success. Disappointed of reducing Italy by force, France had recourse to fraud; and fostered that famous schism in the church, which drew Henry VIII. of England to be a party in the war. The hoarded treasures of Henry's father, enabled him to attack France with a force and superiority not unworthy of the Plantagenets themselves. The peace which Lewis adroitly concluded after the taking of Tournay, may be regarded as the failure of the second grand attempt of France to recover her supremacy. In the enterprize of Charles, there was only a rash Macedonian spirit of conquest; but the schemes of Lewis embraced, in the means of accomplishment, all the artifices of diplomatic dissimulation, and the pretensions of religion, as well as the force of arms. Lewis died soon after the peace, and was succeeded by Francis I.

Francis, on his accession, assumed, in addition to the ordinary titles of the French kings, that of Duke of Milan, which duchy he claimed on some pretence, as little valid as that of his predecessors to the kingdom of Naples. At the death of Maximilian, Francis

aspired to the empire of Germany; but was thrown out in the election by Charles V. He then undertook to indemnify himself in Italy for the disappointment. The proceedings of the rival potentates induced England to contrive that balance system, which she maintained with so much glory and success till the epoch of the French Revolution. The groundwork of this system was laid in the treaty of Calais, most ably concluded by Cardinal Wolsey, in March 1522. In consequence of this great compact of nations, Henry VIII. took the part of Charles V. till the event of the battle of Pavia threatened to render the house of Austria as dangerous as the French nation to the freedom of the world. From the time of Francis I. till the accession of the celebrated Henry IV. France was kept in such a state of turbulence, by religious factions, that she had no leisure to plan foreign projects; but Henry, the favourite of contending zealots, was no sooner seated on the throne, than the national passion appeared, in all its original vigour, in the famous scheme of universal peace; a peace which was to be settled by subduing all independent states! The fortunate death of Henry IV. rescued the world from the conflagration of his flagitious purpose, and terminated the third regular design. He was succeeded by Lewis XIII.

In the reign of Lewis, the French, at home, were again occupied with murder and iniquity for the sake of Religion, as they were lately for the sake of Liberty; and the world had time to breathe. He died in 1643, and was succeeded by his son, Lewis XIV.

The very name of Lewis XIV. is equivalent, in the history of Europe, for ambition. In his time, the ancient imperial pretension of France began to shew itself, and was, as the former attempts,

strongly resisted. The peace of Ryswick failed to procure for Europe the repose which should follow a treaty of that kind. It was a hollow truce, an experiment of the time, like the treaty of Amiens. The death of the Spanish Charles II. in 1700, occasioned the war of the succession. Charles left, by his will, a French prince his heir, whom Lewis XIV. immediately on the death, sent to Madrid, where he was proclaimed king, by the name of Philip V. The German emperor put in a claim, in right of lineage, for one of the Austrian princes. This being opposed by France, a war ensued. Britain took the part of the emperor. The events of the war form one of the most glorious periods in English history; but the treaty of peace, in 1710, was not such as might have been expected to follow the achievements of Marlborough. Still, however, the original objects of the war were procured. Philip solemnly renounced all right and pretensions to the crown of France; and the other French princes, on their part, all right to the crown of Spain, which they might derive from their relationship to Philip. Thus failed the fourth attempt of France to recover the sovereignty of Europe.

France, disappointed in her coercive means, with her natural ingenuity, had recourse to others, unheard of, in the rivalry of nations, before "the age of Lewis XIV." Tingling with the chastisement which she had received from England, she put forth new pretensions. She set herself up as transcendant in the arts and sciences, as the paragon of civilization, and the mirror and example of all that was refined and elegant in manners, philosophy, and dancing. By the blazon which she made of her frivolous proficiency in trifles, she acquired no small ascendancy in the minds of the admiring vulgar.

It obtained for her more real power than all the political projects of her princes; and had not the quackery been exposed by the stupendous crimes of Paris, during the Revolution, we might still have heard that Frenchmen were the models of social urbanity.

After the death of Lewis XIV. the intrigues, consequent to a regal minority, kept the French from molesting their neighbours; but Voltaire, and others of his school and class, with the Parisian milliners and dancing-masters, were still advancing the great nation to the superiority that it merited. The war of 1756, which began in movements among the continental nations, and was entered into by Britain from the necessity of her natural position, and as the guardian of the independence of states, furnished a more distinct view of the unquenchable ambition of France, in the notorious family compact of the Bourbons—a treaty which has served as the substance and model of that system which Napoleon is endeavouring to carry into effect by his relatives.

In the year 1762, France was actually united with Russia, Austria, the German Empire (Confederation of the Rhine), Spain, and Naples; and over Denmark she had great influence. At this time the war was raging between her and Britain, for continental objects and the balance of power. Unable to make head against the genius of the great Pitt, and of Frederick of Prussia, she contrived that measure, by which the whole race of the Bourbons was incorporated into one political frame—the Family Compact. By the 1st and 16th articles, the kings of France and Spain agreed to regard every power as their enemy, which became an enemy to either; and also, that their military operations should pro-

ceed by common consent. By the 17th and 18th, the two kings engaged not to listen to any proposal of peace from their common enemies, but by mutual consent — resolving, in time of peace, as well as of war, each to consider the interests of the allied powers as his own — to compensate their several losses and advantages, and to act as if the two monarchies formed only one and the same power. The king of the Two Sicilies, grandfather to the present empress of France, was comprehended in this treaty. By the 23d and 24th articles, their respective subjects are admitted to a mutual naturalization, and to a participation of immunities and privileges, as if they were natural-born subjects of the respective dominions of the contracting parties; with only one exception, that of a direct trade to Spanish America. By the 25th article, the subjects of all the other crowns of Europe are excluded from any prospect of obtaining similar advantages; and, by the 26th article, it is agreed, that the contracting parties shall disclose to each other all their alliances and negociations. This alliance for supremacy was no sooner ratified, than it was acted on.

On the 6th of March, 1762, the French and Spanish Ambassadors, at the Court of Lisbon, presented a joint memorial to the king, in which they largely insisted on the tyranny exercised by Great Britain upon all powers, especially the maritime, and upon Portugal among the rest! and on that affinity by which the monarchs of Spain and Portugal were as closely connected by the ties of blood, as all the powers are by common interest, to oppose the ambitious designs of the English. This memorial concluded with a declaration, that "as soon as his most faithful majesty had taken his resolution,

which the undersigned doubted not would be favourable, a French and Spanish army would enter Portugal, in order to garrison the principal forts of that kingdom." The King of Portugal, in reply to this audacious paper, spoke and acted with a magnanimity which has merited that liberality of support which the British nation has shown to the fortunes of his successors. He considered, that the ties which united him to Great Britain, and to the crowns of France and Spain, rendered him as proper a mediator to them all, as they made it improper for him to declare himself an enemy to any of them; that his alliance with England was ancient, and therefore could give no offence at this conjuncture; that it was purely defensive, and therefore innocent in all its circumstances. The French and Spanish ministers replied, that his alliance with England was not defensive, because the situations of the Portuguese dominions were such, that it necessarily became offensive; for without having his ports occasionally to resort to, the British ships could not keep the seas; and finally, that all the riches of Portugal flowed, by commerce, into the hands of the islanders. The king answered—That the treaties of league and trade, which subsist between Portugal and Great Britain, are such as the laws of God, of nature, and of nations, have always deemed innocent. He intreated their most Christian Majesties to open their eyes to the injustice of pursuing, against Portugal, the war which was kindled against Great Britain: he desired them to consider, that they were giving an example which would prove the destruction of society; that there was an end of public safety, if neutral nations were to be attacked, because they have defensive treaties with belligerent powers, a maxim which would occasion

desolation to Europe. That therefore, if their troops should enter his realm, he would, in defence of his neutrality, endeavour to repulse them with all his forces, and those of his allies; and he added, that it would affect him less, though reduced to the last extremity, of which the great Judge is the sole arbiter, to let the last tile of his palace fall, and to see his faithful subjects spill their last blood, than to sacrifice, together with the honour of his crown, all that Portugal holds most dear, and become an unheard-of example to all pacific powers, who will no longer be able to enjoy the benefit of neutrality, whenever a war shall be kindled between other powers, with which the former are connected by defensive treaties.

On the 27th of April, 1762, passports were demanded by the ambassadors, and war ensued. But the peace of the following year again afforded a pause to Europe; and France had suffered so much in the war, that her fifth grand attempt to attain the empire of the west may be said to have then ended.

By the Treaty of Utrecht, the crowns of France and Spain were as effectually separated as they could well be. The Family Compact was a contrivance to get rid of the obligations of that treaty. The defect of the peace of 1763 was, in not dissolving the Family Compact; the dissolution of which ought to have been the first article.

The punishment which France received in the war that terminated in 1763, repressed, for a while, her offensive energies. But on the breaking out of the rebellion of the British American provinces, she began, anew, to draw means and hopes of advancement. The provinces had rebelled against the usurpations of the mother

country, and were struggling for freedom; yet notwithstanding that France was herself under the full jurisdiction and prerogatives of despotism, she took a part in the cause of liberty. But it was not the Americans that she abetted. It was enmity against Great Britain that instigated her; and a hope, that by having an army in America, she might find a way of aggrandising herself.

The elastic vigour of the British nation was rather lightened than impaired by the loss of the thirteen provinces. For a temperate and generous policy, such as never any government before evinced towards a rebellion successful, secured all the commercial advantages which could have been derived from them as colonies, without the expense of protecting them; and France has hitherto failed in every machination that she has tried to destroy the natural connection between the parent and the independently settled children.

The French revolution brings the whole system of France fully to view. The different factions, which, during that great commotion, so rapidly succeeded each other, have all shown themselves actuated by one uniform spirit, with respect to other countries. What began with an intention to make slaves of all sovereigns, has ended in a resolution to make slaves of all people. The peace of Amiens was rather an event in the revolution, than the termination of the war: but it became an epoch. From the date of that event, the obsolete pretensions to the sovereignty of Europe, in the person of the French ruler, again became evident to all the world.

The various occurrences, since the renewal of hostilities, have placed the ambition of France in its true light. But the nature of the interviews which the French Emperor held in the dif-

ferent campaigns with the monarchs that he had subdued, have never yet been communicated to the world. The conversations, on those occasions, consisted of strong representations, on his part, of the pernicious insubordinate spirit which reigned in the British islands. To this spirit, he endeavoured to shew that the whole of the doctrines so destructive to sovereigns and princes in the course of the Revolution, ought to be ascribed; and to his representations he found a willing auditor in the emperor of Austria. Several months have elapsed since a regular plan has been arranged for the full establishment of one corporative despotism on the continent. The different sovereigns are to be allowed the free management of the domestic economy of their kingdoms; but all treaties are to be communicated to each member of this despotism; and no measure of peace or war is to be undertaken, without being previously considered by the whole. From this incorporation the British nation is to be excluded; and, in order to reduce that dangerous people, the merchants are to be obliged to deal only in ready money. The conspiracy of kings against mankind, is supposed to have been arranged at Paris, on or before the 12th of January last.

But the very nature of the policy of the British nation, will, more than her arms, enable her to overcome this hydra. Her allies are, now, mankind; and the superiority of a commercial over a military system, begins to be acknowledged by the most fanatical worshippers of French glory.

The aim of a commercial system is to maintain the existing state of things; because security is essential to the prosperity of commerce, and, without some assurance of permanency in the circumstances

under which commercial projects are formed, they are never prosecuted with the activity requisite to ensure success. But the security necessary to commerce, does not imply that the existing state of things should be forcibly maintained: on the contrary, only this, that it should not be suddenly altered; for the tendency of a commercial system is to improve the existing state of things; and improvement is not at variance with, but is the food of stability. The military system is illustrated by the situation of the inhabitants of Holland, Germany, Italy, Spain, and wherever the French arms have been carried. The commercial system is seen in Malta and Sicily, and is remembered wherever the British manufactures have had access. But that cruel coercion which has sent from the shores of so many states so many harmless and helpless beings, cannot long endure. Each individual victim of that bigotry which persecutes industry, even with fire and faggot, has his desire of comfort and of distinction, as strongly as the infatuated princes of the continent; and it is not in the nature of things that this desire should not manifest itself. But it is not against the wretched disciples of the prophet of oppression, that the wrath of mankind should be directed: it is against that nation, which, for a vain-glorious purpose, is the innate enemy of all that is just, venerable, and holy. Until France be reduced again to a moderate condition, there can be no moral advancement — no hope of prosperity — to the continent of Europe.

But in what manner is Great Britain to render her present vantage ground available? By what means are we to receive and embody with our own strength, those innumerable individuals over the continent, who long to embrace and to promote our cause?

How are the physical, moral, and social qualities of mankind to be so amalgamated as to produce political effects? Only by Great Britain proclaiming her resolution to maintain an insular empire, in opposition to the continental system: to avow, that all the islands over which her jurisdiction has not yet been extended, are only not hers because she has not found it convenient to take possession of them; and that what she does take possession of, she will maintain to the utmost, and consider as integral parts of her empire, never to be ceded by treaty, never to be separated but by the sword. Of the utility of such policy we have proof and experience in the state of our relations with Turkey. What protects the remnants of our Levant factories in that paralyzed state from being expelled, like our other merchants, from the rest of Europe, but the known conviction on the mind of the French ruler, that the moment we are obliged to consider the sultan as an enemy, separates from the Ottoman empire the populous and fertile islands of the Ionian and Levant seas? With this fact before our eyes, ought we not to carry our views still further, and to look forward to what would be the effect of a decisive avowal of our insular sovereignty, the natural, necessary, consequence of our maritime power. Nations have not tribunals of justice like men in society. Power, among them, is the criterion of right; and those who deny this principle, arraign the dispensations of Providence. The circumstances of the times, and of our affairs, call on us to look boldly at principles, and to act with decision.

We are to consider, that the whole of the ancient fabric of the European nations has been subverted; that, by a coalition, voluntary and coerced, of all the states of the continent, we are regarded as a

proscribed nation, and our ruin contrived, denounced, and undertaken; that we are treated as an outcast from the community of nations; that our laws and usages are held to be obnoxious to the new order of things; that our efforts to maintain our independence, and to avenge the insults that we have received from our old, hereditary, and particular foe, are represented, by the subjugated, degraded, and, now, nominal princes of Europe, as measures inconsistent with their prosperity; and that every modification of our industry and intelligence, even justice and self-defence, are held to be pernicious to the welfare of the ruling few, and, as such, the means of the subjected many are exerted to destroy them. Should we hesitate, then, to step forward with a bolder demeanour, both of defiance and resolution? The continent has adopted its system; let the islands proclaim theirs. Upon the same principle that we have been expelled from the continent, let us drive from the islands, and chase from the seas, all who retain any connection with the continent. Let those nations who yet pretend to claim insular possessions, know that they only hold them by our forbearance, and that, unless they declare themselves, decidedly, our friends, they shall be deprived of these possessions. The prediction of the king of Portugal to the French and Spanish ministers has been realized. Self-defence, the first instinct derived from heaven, the first law of nature, the only valid reply to the complaints of justice, authorizes and necessitates the adoption of this principle. The guilt and sins of the consequence rest on the head of that presumptuous and prodigal people who have destroyed the codes of ancient usages, and torn into pieces the charters of states, in order to assert a false and fraudulent

claim to their political property. The enemy and his hostile vassals, have, hitherto, seen our naval power employed only as a defensive instrument: they have yet to feel the weight of this great trident. The kingdoms of Cyprus and of Candia, the great islands of Rhodes, of Scio, of Samos, of Mitilene, of Eubea, the Grecian and Adriatic archipelagos, the Minorcas, and the kingdoms of Corsica, of Sardinia, and of Sicily, may all be reduced to our subserviency and jurisdiction, by a smaller force than our gratuitous army now in the peninsula. In them we should find new vents to the overflowing products of our industry, and derive from them and their population, at once the sinews and the instruments of war. They are not like those countries which we have colonized from ourselves, and which have never ceased to drain the means of the mother country: they are matured and settled communities, habituated to contribute to the support of their supreme governments, and eager to send forth their youth on enterprizes in which they may renovate their ancient celebrity. They know that their long dilapidated means would replenish, and their much depressed genius would recover, and emulate its former greatness, under the beneficent protection of the British flag. With Tenedos we should command the outlet of the Black Sea, the Bosphorus, the gulph of Nicomedia, the Propontis, and the Hellespont. With Cyprus we might open an overland communication, through Egypt, to the Red Sea, and abbreviate the route to India no less than half its present length. By the Archipelago, we should command the whole trade and intercourse of the greatest part of Turkey in Europe with Asia Minor. By taking possession of the little island of Sasina, at the mouth of Valona, opposite to Cape Otranto, we

should acquire one of the noblest harbours in the world, and command the Adriatic. I omit to notice the Minorcas, Corsica, Sardinia, and the flourishing kingdom of Sicily, and to point out in what manner they command the shores of Italy, of France, and of Spain; and I mention Gibraltar only to say, that, by displaying the Herculean energies of the British nation, with a more frank and masterly arrogance, against the chimeras and hydras of Europe, the possession will become less the sentinel of a pass, than the guardian of a rich Hesperides.

APPENDIX.

SICILY.

A LIST OF THE PRODUCTIONS OF SICILY, AND THE NAMES OF THE PLACES WHERE THEY ARE TO BE PROCURED.

Agate.—In the neighbourhood of Girgenti.

Amber.—Catania.

Almonds (sweet and bitter).—Arvola, Girgenti, Siculano, Palmo, Sciacca.

Anchovies.—Cefalu, Melazzo, Termini, Trapani, Sciacca; all along the northern coast; also, in considerable quantities, along the southern.

Brandy.—Marsala, Vittoria, Mascali, Melazzo.

Beans.—Terranova, Girgenti, Licati, Termini.

Barley.—Terranova, Scoglietti, Licati, Girgenti.

Barrilla.—Catania, Trapani, Marsala, Terranova, Girgenti.

Bergamot.—Messina.

Cantharides.—Little Catania, Pietraperzia, Corleoné, Sicara, Calatafirno.

Carubies.—Mazzarelli, Puzzallo, Vittoria, Corniso, Ragusa.

Capers.—Great quantities might be collected between Mazzara and Sciacca.

Charcoal.—Syracuse, Terranova, Coronia, and between Melazzo and Cefalu, on the northern coast.

Citrons.—Palermo and Messina.

Cotton.—Terranova, and the country between Syracuse and Girgenti.

Coral.—Trapani.

Chesnuts.—Catania, Mascali, along the foot of Etna.

Dried Figs.—Chiefly imported from the Lipari islands, Melazzo, and Messina.

Essences (bergamot, lemon, and orange).—Messina.

Flax.—Corleone, and in the interior, between Catania and Termini.

Flaxseed.—Corleone, Alcamo, Catania.

Firewood.—Coronia and Syracuse.

Grain.—The agents reside in Termini, Castellamare, Girgenti, Sciacca, Catania, and Licati.

Gum.—Girgenti and Palermo.

Goat-skins.—Catania, Palermo, and Messina.

Granite.—Palermo, Messina (for shipping).

Honey.—Arvola.

Hare-skins.—Coronia. No care is taken in collecting this article.

Hides.—Palermo and Messina.

Hemp.—Mascali, Taci, Franceforte, Militti, Sicili, Noto, Biscari, vicinity of Agosta, Syracuse.

Lemons.—Messina.

Lupins.—Messina.

Linseed oil.—Palermo, Castellamare, Mazzara

Lemon-juice.—Messina.

Manna.—Cefalu, Giraci, Capare, Carini.

Marble.—Toarmini.

Myrtle.—Coronia.

Nuts.—Cefalu.

Oranges.—Messina, Palermo.

Orange-water.—Palermo.

Olive-oil.—Palermo, Cattabellata, Licati, Pitteneo, St. Stephano, Cefalu, Tuza, Torremuzza, Messina, Vittoria, Arvola.

Ox-horns.—The Sicilian oxen have beautiful horns, but no care is taken in collecting them, or preparing them for exportation.

Oil-cake.—Catania, Termini, Trapani.

Pistachio-nuts.—Ravanusa, Riesi, Pietrafezzia.

Planks.—Caronia, St. Maria, Terranova, Biscari, St. Pietro, Favara, Sceri, Mazzarone, Granini, Tuedo, Nobile.

Rice.—Rocilla, Rivela, Vittoria, Termini.

Rum.—District of Contidia—very little.

Silk.—Catania, Messina, Palermo.

Soap.—Palermo, Melazzo, Termini, Marsala.

Sumack.—Alcamo, Montreali, Carini, Trapani, Termini, Girgenti, and Catania.

Sulphur.—Somattino, Gallati, Trabria, Pentellaria, Licati, Salato, Palmo, Tavara, Girgenti, Falconara.

Salt.—Trapani, Agosta, Syracuse, Mazzamené, and Venicani.

Saffron,—St. Philippo—little.

Sugar.—District of Contidia—produce still small.

Starch.—Palermo.

Tartar (white).—Palermo, Marsala, Catania.

——— (red).—Mascali, Messina, Melazzo, Vittoria.

Tunny—Agents at Palermo and Cefalu.

Timber (for building).—The woods of Coronia—the exportation is prohibited.

Wool.—Marsala and Mistrella.

Wolf-skins (few).—Coronia.

Wines (white).—Syracuse, Marsala, Catania.

——— (red).—Messina, Melazzo, Mascali, Vittoria.

N. B. The silks manufactured in Messina, and the neighbourhood of that city, are allowed to be exported duty free—an immunity granted in consideration of the misfortunes which the city has suffered from earthquakes.

STATEMENT OF BRITISH COTTON MANUFACTURES SUITABLE FOR SICILY.

NANKEENS.—Consumption considerable. Largest sales effected in the months of March and April. Clouds invoiced at 1*s.* 2*d.* per yard, Twills 1*s.* 6*d.* and Florentines at 1*s.* 8*d.* are the kinds that suit.

Dimities.—Saleable in the spring. Those invoiced at 1*s.* 8*d.* and 2*s.* per yard suit. The finer kinds will not pay so well.

Muslinets.—When low invoiced, sell readily, in the spring months. The finer kinds not so much in demand.

Quiltings.—The finer kinds seldom or never pay. The coarser, of gay colours, alone are saleable.

Printed Calicoes.—The fine qualities most saleable. Those of small designs are preferred. Coarse Calicoes quite unsaleable.

Printed Muslins.—Sell readily. Small patterns are mostly sought for.

Book Muslins.—Will not serve unless low invoiced.

Tamboured Muslins.—Demand inconsiderable.

Japan Muslins.—Coloured and worked, seldom or never answer.

Lappet Muslins.—Of the common kinds, those which are commonly invoiced at 1*s.* 3*d.* per yard, of gay colours, calculated for the use of the lower orders, go off to advantage.

Cambrick Muslins.—Six-quarters wide, invoiced at 2*s.* or 2*s.* 6*d.* per yard, will almost always sell readily. Those invoiced higher are less inquired for. Sales of nine-eighths wide are sometimes made.

Handkerchiefs, Britannia.—Saleable.

Handkerchiefs, Madras.—The coarser kinds pay best: viz. those invoiced at 18*s.* or 20*s.* per dozen.

Pullicats.—Generally in demand.

Velverets.—Sell best in the months of September and October: the consumption very considerable. They are generally invoiced at *2s.* 8*d.* to *3s.* per yard: blues are always most saleable. They should be assorted two-thirds blues and one-third blacks, in chests.

Velveteens.—Black and blues sell readily. Blues, however, are always in the greatest request; generally invoiced at *3s.* 6*d.* to *3s.* 9*d.* per yard. Cords are always dull of sale, and seldom pay.

Thicksets.—The consumption very considerable. Best time for sale, September and October. Those invoiced at *2s.* are in greatest request. Blues, blacks, and bottle-greens, are the colours which suit. Genoa thicksets stand too high to answer well: the twilled ones are quite unsaleable at any price.

Jeans.—Invoiced at *2s.* 3*d.* to *2s.* 6*d.*: are in great demand in the spring months. They go off advantageously. Vast quantities are consumed in the summer.

Jeanets.—Sell readily in the spring.

Printed ditto.—Difficult of sale.

Thread.—In hanks and boxes. The former invoiced at *6s.* to 12*s.* 4*d.* per pound. The latter, assorted colours, in small boxes of twelve balls each, at 33*s.* per dozen boxes, are the kinds which suit.

THE NEW WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OF SICILY, SUITED TO THE ENGLISH STANDARDS.

Almost every town in Sicily, and even various articles, had a different weight and measure, till his Sicilian Majesty, by a Decree dated the 31st December, 1809, ordered, that from the 1st of January, 1811, there should be an uniformity of Weights and Measures, throughout the island, upon the following metrical system.

1st. Long Measure.—The basis is the Point or beginning of a line, and divided as follows :

Points							
12=	1 line.						
144=	12=	1 inch, called Oncia.					
1728=	144=	12=	1 Palm.				
3459=	288=	24=	2=	1 Passetto, *i. e.* a small pace.			
6918=	576=	48=	4=	2=	1 Mezza Canna; *i. e.* one half cane.		
13836=	1152=	96=	8=	4=	2=	1 Canna.	
55344=	4608=	384=	32=	16=	8=	4=	1 Catena; *i. e*, a chain.
221376=	18432=	1536=	128=	64=	32=	16=	4= 1 Chord.

9953280=829440=69120=5760=2880=1440=720=180=45=1 Mile.

N. B. The difference between a Sicilian and an English inch is as 12 .. 10; so that their palm is equal to 10 inches, and their cane to 80, or 6 f. 8 in. Therefore $720 \times 6.66 = 4800$ feet in a Sicilian mile. But an English mile is 5280 f. therefore, the Sicilian mile is 480 f. or 160 yards, shorter than the English mile.

2d. Square Measure.—Its basis is the Quartiglio, answering to a square cane.

Quartigli
4=1 Quarto.
16= 4= 1 Carozzo.
64= 16= 4= 1 Mondello.
256= 64= 16= 4= 1 Tumolo.
1024= 256= 64=16= 4=1 Bisaccia.
4096=1024=256=64=16=4=1 Salma.

N.B. A Salm of Land being equal to 4096 Quartigli, or square canes, $4096 \times 6.66' = 9102.22''$ square yards in a Salma of Land.—The English acre is 4840 square yards; therefore, the salm is 4262.22″ square yards greater than the acre; upwards of an acre and three quarters.

3d. Corn Measure.—Its basis is the Tumolo, equal to a cubic palm; and its subdivisions are like those of the square measure, and with the same denominations. Thus,

Quartigli
4= 1 Quarto.
16= 4= 1 Carozzo.
64= 16= 4= 1 Mondello.
256= 64= 16= 4= 1 Tumolo, a cubic palm.
1024= 256= 64=16= 4=1 Bisaccia.
4096=1024=256=64=16=4= 1Salma.

N. B. Salma, or Sarma, probably derived from the Latin *sarcina*, a burden; for it is supposed to be an exact burden for a mule to carry, in a mountainous country. Or from the Greek Σαγμα, which signifies the same thing.

A cubic palm is ten cubic inches; that is, 1000 inches; which, multiplied by 16, the number of tumolos in a salma, yields 16000 cubic inches for one salma.—The English quarter is 17200 cubic inches. The difference between the salma and English quarter is 1200 cubic inches; about half a bushel in the quarter in favour of the English measure, or seven and a half *per cent.*

4th. Liquids.—The basis of this measure is a cubic palm, called *Quartara.*

Bicchieri							
2=	1 Caraffa.						
4=	2=	1 Quartuccio.					
80=	40=	20=	1 Quartara, a cubic palma.				
160=	80=	40=	2=	1 Barile.			
1280=	640=	320=	16=	8=	1 Salma.		
4920=	2460=	1280=	64=	32=	4=	1 Botte, or butt.	

N. B. A Barile being equal to two quartaras, that is, to two cubic palms of 10 inches, make 2000 English cubic inches. An English wine-gallon is 231 cubic inches; therefore, as 231 : 1 gallon : : 2000 : 8.658 English gallons in a barile, and $8.658 \times 32 = 277.056$ gallons in a butt. An English tun being 252 gallons, the Sicilian butt is 25 gallons greater than the tun.

5th. Weights.—The basis of the Sicilian Weights is taken from the Quartuccio, filled with clear olive-oil; and the weight of this oil answers to the rottolo. In the table of the liquids we have seen, that a quartuccio is the 20th part of a quartara (equal to a cubic palm); so that the quartuccio is also the 20th part of a cubic palm.

The lowest denomination of their weights is an Octave, and the greatest a Cantar.

Octaves								
8=	1 Coccio, or Grain.							
160=	20=	1 Scruple.						
480=	60=	3=	1 Dram.					
960=	120=	6=	2=	1 Quarte.				
1920=	240=	12=	4=	2=	1 Half-ounce.			
3840=	480=	24=	8=	4=	2=	1 Ounce.		
46080=	5760=	288=	96=	48=	24=	12=	1 Libra—Pound.	
115200=	14400=	720=	240=	120=	60=	30=	2·5=	1 Rottolo*.
11520000=	1440000=	72000=	24000=	12000=	6000=	3000=	250=	100=1 Cantar.

* The weight of a Quartuccio of clear Olive Oil.

N. B. Oil, in Sicily, is sold by weight.

A Rottolo, of 30 Sicilian ounces, has been found to render, in England, 28 ounces avoirdupoise weight; so that we may reckon, that a Sicilian Cantar is equal nearly to 175 pounds avoirdupoise.

THE SPANISH DOLLAR:

AN ECLOGUE,

ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE CHARACTER OF THE SICILIAN PEASANTS.

Behold a street in a Sicilian town,
Which still retains some name of old renown.
That red letica, near yon stable plac'd,
Denotes th' arrival of a stranger guest.
But, lo! the actors, peasants they appear;
Hear what they say, and rev'rence what you hear.

" The solar blaze, my friend, Antonio, quit,
And in the shadow of this chapel sit.
Here, on my knees, lay thy unwater'd face,
While through thy tangled locks I raise the chace.
Thine be the reveries of the drowsy joy,
And mine the bliss of seeking to destroy."
" Ah, Ludivico, other thoughts excite
My eager scratching, than that dear delight.
An English trav'ller has arriv'd to-day,
And how to serve him all my wits assay.
Three prices, for our vile Sicilian trash,
Th' Ingleses pay, and never grudge the cash;

And this milord has given, O best of men!
That Spanish dollar for my leanest hen.
The hen, my wife, with salt and Indian spice,
In water stews; but what should be the price
With deep perplexity confounds my brain,
And firm resolves are re-resolv'd again:
For, well you know, if I too much require
For cooking, dishes, pepper, salt, and fire,
(The thought appals my very heart with dread)
Th' unruly Englishman will break my head:
And if but what he freely pays, the loss,
Till chance repair it, every joy will cross."
"The case, Antonio, is somewhat new;
But let us take it in a double view.
What! salt, and spice, and fire, and wife to cook!
For a half-dollar, friend, you well may look."
"But half a dollar, Ludivico?—Oh!"
"Nay, good Antonio, I said not so;
Hear but my counsel, and you yet may own
Two dollars more, and still preserve your crown.
In numerous parts, as lawyers charges frame,
Divide your costs, and still beforehand claim.
The small half-dollar ne'er will raise a strife,
For pepper, salt, and fire, and work of wife.
Therefore reserve it for the last demand,
And humbly ask it with a stretched hand."
"Dear Ludivico, so I mean to do;
But how shall I obtain the other two?"

" Ay, there, Antonio, there the puzzle lies,
And plain it is, that ne'er the shining prize
You by your own unaided wits could reach:
But let me share, and I that art will teach.
Give me that dollar in your hand, for fee,
And I will teach you how to gain still three."
" Three! Ludivico? be the silver thine.
O that I could obtain thy brains for mine!"
" Well, first, you know, the English must have wine:
To purchase that a dollar boldly ask,
And fill a bottle from the huckster's cask;
Which, new and weak, no Englishman will taste,
So in the cask it may be all replac'd.
Meanwhile, your wife, with skilful hand, may make
The stew such as no Englishman can take:
And other fare you must, of course, provide.
For eggs and bread he may be safely tried
A full half-dollar; and for fruit, you know,
Another ask — why there, you see, are two:
And for the third, you need not fear to try
If he antiquities or toys will buy:
A worn tarri to sell as wondrous rare;
A Punic coin — nay, but the thing is fair,
For our Sicilia was a Punic isle,
And rare that coin is the reward of toil."

" Ah, reprobates!" exclaim'd a voice behind.
Aghast they turn, and see, with ear inclin'd,

A full-fed monk look slyly from within :
All he had heard, and thus reprov'd their sin : —
" Ah, reprobates ! to me that dollar give ;
Such knaves, as you, are hardly fit to live.
How now, Antonio ! to cheat so willing !
Your famished hen was not worth half a shilling.
Go, Ludivico, sinner as thou art, —
How durst thou counsels such as these impart ?—
Go, instantly, this shocking sin to mend,
With your best tales the English lord attend.
For, true it is, without his nation's aid,
Our holy church would drive a losing trade."

The peasants yield, and slink away ; the priest
Seeks the refectory and savoury feast.

Cape Passero,
20th December 1809.

TURKEY.

Le Général en Chef de l'Armée d'Italie au Chef du Peuple libre de Maina.

CITOYEN,

J'ai reçu, de Trieste, une lettre, dans laquelle vous me témoignez le désir d'être utile à la République Française, en accueillant ses bâtimens sur vos ports. Je me plais à croire que vous tiendrez votre parole avec cette fidélité qui convient à un descendant des Spartiates! La République Française ne sera point ingrate à l'égard de votre nation; quant à moi, je recevrai volontiers quiconque viendra me trouver de votre part, et ne souhaite rien tant que de voir régner une bonne harmonie entre deux nations également amies de la liberté.

Je vous récommande les porteurs de cette lettre, qui sont aussi des déscendans des Spartiates. S'ils n'ont pas fait jusqu'ici de grandes choses, c'est qu'ils ne sont point trouvés sur un grand théâtre.

Salut et fraternité,

BUONAPARTE.

METHODS EMPLOYED IN DYING TURKEY-RED.

Professor Oettinger, at Tubingen, was the first chemist, in the west of Europe, whose experiments approximated to the discovery of the Oriental process of giving to cotton that beautiful red dye, which withstands the strongest solvents. In 1764, he published a small work, in which he mentioned, that by steeping the dyed Turkish yarns in olive-oil, the colour may not only be extracted, but the material of it transferred to other thread. Hence it was inferred, that either the dye itself, or the preparing liquor, or both, must be of a fat nature, and soluble in oil.

THE PERSIAN METHOD.

The process in use, at Astracan, for dying Turkey-red is nearly as follows:—The cotton is first washed exceedingly clean, in running water, and dried in bright weather. If it does not dry before the evening it is taken under cover, on account of the saline dews so remarkable in the country around Astracan, and again exposed to the air next morning. When it is thoroughly dry, it is laid in a tub, and fish-oil poured over it, till it is entirely covered. In this state it remains all night: in the morning it is hung up, and left till the evening. This process is repeated seven successive times, in order that the cotton may fully imbibe the oil, and free itself from all air. The yarn is then carried to a stream, cleaned as much as possible, and hung up on the poles to dry.

After this preparation, a mordant is made of three materials, which give the grounds of the red colour. The pulverized leaves of sumach are boiled in copper kettles; and, when their colouring matter has been sufficiently extracted, some powdered galls are added, with which the colour must be again boiled; and, by these means, it acquires a dark dirty colour. After it has been sufficiently boiled, the fire is taken from under the kettle,

and alum put into the still hot liquor, where it is soon dissolved. The whole mordant must be strong, and of an astringent taste.

As soon as the alum is dissolved, no time must be lost, in order that the mordant may not be suffered to cool. The yarn is then put into small wooden vessels, into each of which a quantity of the mordant is poured, sufficient to moisten the yarn. By this, it acquires only a pale yellow colour, which, however, is durable. It is then hung up in the sunshine to dry; again washed in the stream; and afterwards dried once more.

The next part of the process is, to prepare the madder dye. The madder, ground to a fine powder, is spread out in large troughs, and into each trough is poured a large cup-full of sheep's blood, the kind of blood easiest procured. The madder must be strongly mixed in it, by means of the hand, and then stand some hours, in order to be thoroughly soaked by it.

After this process, water is made hot in large kettles; and, as soon as it is warm, the preparation of madder is put into it, in the proportion of a pound to every pound of cotton. The dye is then suffered to boil strongly; and, when it is boiled enough, which may be tried on cotton threads, the fire is removed from under the kettle. The dyer then dips the cotton yarn, piece by piece, into the dye; turns it round, backwards and forwards; presses it a little with his hands, and lays each piece into pails. As soon as all the cotton has received the first tint, it is hung up to dry. As the red, however, is still too dull, the yarn, which has been already dyed once, and become dry, is put once more into the dying-kettle, and left to seeth, for three hours, over a strong fire, by which it acquires that dark red colour so much esteemed in the Turkey yarns. After this process it is again dried, afterwards washed in the stream, and, when dry, is marketable.

The fact disclosed by this process is, the animalization of the madder and cotton by blood and oil.

THE GREEK METHOD OF DYING TURKEY RED.

The first process is, that of cleaning the cotton; for which purpose three leys are employed; one of soda, another of ashes, and a third of lime. The cotton is thrown into a tub, and moistened with the liquor of the three leys, in equal quantities; it is then boiled in pure water, and washed in running water.

The second bath given to the cotton is composed of soda and sheep's dung, dissolved in water. To facilitate the solution, the soda and dung are pounded in a mortar. The proportion of these ingredients employed, are, one oke of dung, six of soda, and forty of water. When the ingredients are well mixed, the liquor expressed from them is strained, and being poured into a tub, six okes of olive-oil are added to it, and the whole is well stirred, till it becomes of a whitish colour, like milk. The cotton is then sprinkled with this; and when the skeins are thoroughly moistened, they are wrung, pressed, and exposed to dry. The same bath must be repeated three or four times; because it is this liquor which renders the cotton more or less fit for receiving the dye. Each bath is given with the same liquor, and ought to continue five or six hours. It is to be observed, that the cotton, after each bath, must be dried without being washed, as it ought not to be rinced till after the last bath. The cotton is then as white as if it had been bleached in the fields.

The galling is performed by immersing the cotton in a bath of warm water, in which five okes of pulverised gall-nuts have been boiled. This operation renders the cotton more fit for being saturated with the colour, and gives to the dye more body and strength.

After the galling comes aluming, which is performed twice, with an interval of two days; and which consists in dipping the cotton into a bath

of water, in which five okes of alum have been infused, mixed with five okes of water, alkalised by a ley of soda. The aluming must be performed with care, as it is this operation which makes the colouring matter combine best with the cotton, and which secures it in part from the destructive action of the air. When the second aluming is finished, the cotton is wrung. It is then pressed, and put to soak in running water, being inclosed in a bag of thin cloth.

The workmen then proceed to the dying. To compose the colours, they put in a kettle five okes of water, and thirty-five okes of madder-root: the madder having been pulverized, and moistened with one oke of ox or sheep's blood. The blood strengthens the colour; and the dose is increased or lessened, according to the shade of colour required. An equal heat is maintained below the kettle, but not too violent; and when the liquor begins to grow warm, the skeins are then gradually immersed, before the liquor becomes too hot. They are then tied, with packthread, to small rods, placed crosswise above the kettle, for that purpose; and when the liquor boils well, and in an uniform manner, the rods from which the skeins are suspended are removed, and the cotton is suffered to fall into the kettle, where it remains until two thirds of the water is evaporated. When one third only of the liquor remains, the cotton is taken out, and washed in pure water.

The dye is afterwards brought to perfection by means of a bath, alcalised with soda. This manipulation is the most difficult, and the most delicate of the whole; because it is that which gives the colour its tone. The cotton is thrown into this new bath, and made to boil, over a steady fire, till the colour assumes the required tint. The whole art consists in catching the proper degree.

N. B. The peculiarity in the Greek process is, the use of dung. This substance contains a large quantity of volatile alkali, in a disengaged state, which has the property of giving a rosy hue to the red.

The chief manufactories for dying spun cotton red, established in Greece, are in Thessaly. There are some at Baba, Rapsani, Tournavos, Larissa, Pharsalia, and in all the villages situated on the sides of Ossa and Pelion. Ambelaki, in the vale of Tempé, is the most eminent.

A GERMAN PROCESS FOR DYING TURKEY-RED.

Make a caustic ley of one part of good common pot-ash, dissolved in four parts of boiling water, and half a pint of quick-lime slaked in it. Dissolve one part of powdered alum in two parts of boiling water; and while this solution of sulphate of alumine is still warm, to avoid re-crystallization, pour into it successively, always stirring it, the above-mentioned caustic ley, till the alumine it had at first precipitated, after saturation, to excess, with sulphuric acid, has been re-dissolved. Leave this solution to cool. Then mix a thirty-third part of linseed-oil, with which a saponaceous liquor is formed. The skeins of cotton or linen ought to be successively immersed in it, and equally pressed, that they may be then exposed to dry, on a pole, in the order in which they are taken from the mixture. They must be dried under shelter from rain in summer, and in a warm place in winter, and be left in that state for twenty-four hours: they must then be washed in very pure running water, and be again dried; after which they are to be immersed in an alkaline ley, pressed and dried a second time, in the same manner as at first; taking care, however, to re-commence the immersion in the ley with those skeins which have been last in the oily mixture, because the first never fails to carry away a larger portion than the last. It will be proper, also, to consume the mixture each time.

The intensity of the red proposed to be obtained will be in proportion to the quantity of the madder employed. By taking a quantity of madder, equal in weight to that of the skeins, the result will be a red, which, by clearing, will be changed to a rosy shade. On the other hand, shades of crimson, more or less bright, will be obtained by employing two, three, and even four times the weight of madder, without ever forgetting the addition of chalk, if the water employed does not contain some of it.

The best method of obtaining shades lively as well as bright, is, to expose the dark reds for a considerable time, when they have been cleared, to the action of a ley of oxygenated muriate of potash, or of soda, with excess of alkaline carbonate, in order to have such a degree of shade as may be required. But it may readily be conceived, that this method would be expensive.

THE GLASGOW METHOD FOR DYING TURKEY RED.

I. For 100 lbs. of cotton yarn take 100 lbs. of barilla, 20 lbs. of pearl-ashes, and 100 lbs. of quick-lime. — The barilla is mixed with soft water, in a deep tub, from which the ley is filtered through a hole, covered with cloth, at the bottom. The strongest ley required must float an egg. — Dissolve the pearl-ashes in forty gallons of soft water, and the lime in fifty-six gallons. Let all the liquors stand till they become quite clear, and then mix forty gallons of each. Boil the cotton in the mixture five hours, then wash it in running water, and dry it.

II. Take fifty gallons of the barilla ley, and dilute it in two four-gallon pails full of sheep's dung; then pour into it half a gallon of oil of vitriol, and one pound of gum-arabic, and one pound of sal-ammoniac, both previously dissolved in a sufficient quantity of weak barilla water; and, lastly, twenty-five pounds of olive oil, which has been previously dissolved, or well

mixed with eight gallons of weaker barilla ley than that in which floats the egg. In this steep the cotton, until it is thoroughly soaked; let it lie twenty-four hours; then wring it well, and hang it up to dry. Repeat this process three times.

III. Repeat the last process, except that the sheep's dung is to be omitted.

IV. Boil twenty-five pounds of galls, bruised, in forty gallons of river-water, until four or five are boiled away; strain the liquor into a tub, and pour cold water on the galls in the strainer, to wash out of them all their tincture. As soon as the liquor is become milk-warm, dip your cotton, hank by hank, handling it carefully all the time, and let it steep twenty-four hours. Then wring it carefully and equally, and dry it well, without washing.

V. Dissolve twenty-five pounds of Roman alum in fourteen pails of warm water, without making it boil; skim the liquor well, and add two pails of strong barilla water, and then let it cool until it be luke-warm. Dip your cotton, and handle it, hank by hank, and let it steep twenty-four hours; wring it equally, and dry it well, without washing.

VI. Repeat, in every particular, the last process; but, after the cotton is dry, steep it six hours in running-water, and then dry it.

VII. The cotton is dyed in quantities of about ten pounds at a time; for which take about two gallons and a half of ox-blood, and mix it in the copper with one hundred and twelve gallons of lukewarm water, and stir it well; then add twenty-five pounds of madder, and stir all well together. Then, having previously put the ten pounds of yarn on sticks, dip it into the liquor, and move and turn it constantly one hour; during which, gradually increase the heat, until the liquors begin to boil, at the end of an hour. Then sink the cotton, and boil it gently one hour longer; and, lastly, wash

it and dry it. Take out so much of the boiling liquor, that what remains may produce a lukewarm heat, with the fresh water with which the copper is again filled up; and then proceed to make up a dying liquor, for the next ten pounds of the cotton.

VIII. Mix equal parts of the second and third process-liquors, taking about twenty gallons of each; tread down the cotton into this mixture, and let it steep six hours; then wring it moderately and equally, and dry it without washing.

IX. Ten pounds of white soap must be dissolved, most carefully and completely, in sixteen or eighteen pails of warm water: if any little bits of the soap remain undissolved, they will make spots in the cotton. Add sixteen gallons of the strong barilla water, and stir it well. Sink the cotton in this liquor, keeping it down with cross-sticks, and cover it up; boil it, gently, two hours; then wash it and dry it, and the processes are finished.

N. B. The Glasgow method is similar to the French. But in none of all these different methods does it appear that the juice of lemons or citrons are employed. It is from this circumstance that I have ventured to infer, that the scarlet colour of Scutari is obtained by the use of the vegetable acid, in some stage of the process.

CONSIDÉRATIONS

SUR

LE COMMERCE ET LA NAVIGATION DE LA MER NOIRE.

Ce commerce, fait avec prudence et économie, doit procurer de grand profits, puisque les Turcs et les Grecs qui le font très-mal y gagnent encore beaucoup, malgré le change très-fort qu'ils paient sur l'argent qu'ils empruntent ordinairement à la grosse aventure, pour se procurer des fonds.

" Le moyen qui paroîtroit le plus convenable pour tirer le meilleur parti possible du commerce de la Mer Noire, et de lui donner toute l'entendue dont il est susceptible, seroit de former une compagnie par actions, dont le comptoir principal seroit à Constantinople, et à laquelle tous les négocians du Levant, et même de France, pourroient prendre part.

" Avant que d'établir cette compagnie et d'envoyer dans les diverses eschelles de la Mer Noire les facteurs nécessaires, il conviendroit de choisir une personne entendue, accompagnée d'un ingénieur-géographe pour lever les plans, rectifier les cartes et la position des lieux; d'un ou de deux negocians au fait du commerce et ayant connoissance des marchandizes, avec deux drogmans qui possédassent bien les langues Française, Italienne, Grecque, Turque, Persane, et Arabe, auxquels on joindroit deux janissaires fidèles de la suite de l'ambassadeur pour escorte, afin de faire le tour de cette mer dans la belle saison, examiner encore plus à fond les diverses echelles, la nature du commerce en général, le commerce respectif des echelles entr'elles, celui qu'y font les diverses nations voisines,

les marchandises que l'on peut y vendre et acheter avec avantage, les prix des unes et des autres qui peuvent varier, les différens frais de commerce et autres dépenses y relatives, les facilités et les obstacles que l'on pourroit trouver dans les établissemens; pour s'assurer, en un mot, plus parfaitement que l'on n'a pu faire jusqu'à présent, de tout ce qui peut être relatif à cet objet, et se convaincre par l'expérience de la vérité des choses.

" La personne choisie pour cette commission devroit noliser à Constantinople un gros bâtiment Turc de 5 à 6,000 quintaux ou 300 tonneaux, qui coûteroit 3,000 piastres par mois; l'équipage de ce bâtiment devroit être composé de trois ou quatre matelots Français, capables et gens déterminés, ainsi que d'un pilote expert et d'un écrivain en état de tenir un journal exact; indépendamment d'un reïs ou patron Turc et d'un nombre nécessaire de matelots Turcs et Grecs dont on seroit sûr. Ce bâtiment porteroit quelques pièces de canon et des pierriers, avec d'autres armes.

" L'on porteroit dans chaque échelle un essai de toutes sortes de marchandises d'entrée, et on acheteroit un peu de toutes celles de sortie: l'on pourroit également, dans le cours de ce voyage, faire l'épreuve nécessaire du commerce d'une échelle à l'autre. Peut-être même les profits que l'on feroit dans cette tournée en paieroient-ils toutes les dépenses, ainsi que les présens qu'il faudroit faire aux pachas, cadis, musseleims, gouverneurs, commandans dans les divers lieux où l'on passeroit.

" Le commissaire chargé de cette expédition, devroit être muni de firmans ou commandemans du grand-seigneur, enjoignant à tous les gouverneurs et officiers de justice de lui donner toute la protection nécessaire ponr l'établissement de ce commerce. On pourroit même, pour plus grande sûrete, le faire accompagner par un chiaoux, ou tout autre officier de la Porte, qui feroit exécuter les ordres de son souverain, en cas de refus et de

désobeissance. Une pareille grâce ne seroit peut-être pas difficile à obtenir du ministere Ottoman, et un ambassadeur habile pourroit lui faire envisager plusieurs avantages capables de le déterminer à l'accorder. Ce commissaire, aidé de ces négocians, d'un ingénieur-géographe, et d'un pilote expérimenté, muni de bonnes cartes marines de la Mer Noire, de boussoles éprouvées et d'instrumens, seroit en état, en faisant un pareil voyage, de donner sur le commerce de la Mer Noire des lumieres plus étendues, et des connoissances encore plus précises que celles que l'on a pu fournir ici. Alors, avec de pareilles instructions, on pourroit procéder à l'établissement des facteurs, et travailler à leur procurer la protection et la liberté qui sont le fondement et la base de tout commerce; et l'on ne seroit pas dans le cas de se laisser abuser par les discours de quelque aventuriers, dont les rapports inexacts ne peuvent qu'induire en erreur d'après leur foibles lumières.

" Dans les echelles où l'on ne pourroit pas établir des facteurs à demeure, comme chez les Abazes et ailleurs, on se contenteroit de faire naviguer des facteurs ambulans et des subrécargues.

" Si ce commissaire étoit obligé, suivant les occurrences, de passer en Géorgie, conjointement avec les négocians dont il seroit accompagné, et d'aller jusqu'à Tiflis auprès du prince Héraclius, ainsi qu'aupres du kan et des vayvodes, de Valachie et de Moldavie, il faudroit qu'il fût muni de lettres de créance et de recommandation du roi auprès de ces princes, dont il feroit usage suivant les circonstances et avec toute la prudence possible; il conviendroit de plus qu'il fût porteur d'un ordre du grand seigneur aux deux vayvodes, afin de lui faciliter l'objet de sa mission.

" Les périls de la navigation de la Mer Noire ont toujours épouvanté, avec quelque raison, le plupart de nos négocians, il est vrai que cette mer est fort orageuse, que les port y sont rares, et que ne trouvant pas à ce faire assurer, on est obligé de courir tous les risques: mais l'on peut en même temps avancer que les plus grands dangers sont causés par l'ignorance et

l'inexpérience des navigateurs, et leur mal-addresse dans la manière de charger les navires. Les patrons des vaisseaux n'ont point de cartes marines, et n'ont que de très-mauvaises baussoles : ils ne savent ni louvoyer, ni se tenir à la cape : de quelque côté que le vent tourne, ils mettent tout de suite en poupe, et vont où le vent les conduit : dés qu'ils perdent la terre de vue, ils ne savent plus calculer leur route, connoître le chemin que peut faire le bâtiment, ni trouver le port, à moins que le hasard ou leur routine ne les y conduise ; sans cela, ils vont échouer infailliblement. Lorsqu'ils partent d'un endroit pour aller à un autre, ils ont coutume d'attendre un vent qu'ils jugent, d'une manière fort incertaine, devoir leur faire faire tant de lieues par heure ; ils calculent de façon à pouvoir se trouver de jour devant le port qu'ils veulent aborder : si par hasard le vent renforce ou diminue, et que la nuit les surprenne a l'attérage, ils vont à coup sûr naufrager à la côte. L'entrée du canal de Constantinople, ou du Bosphore de Thrace, est, surtout pour eux, un écueil dangereux, où il en périt un grand nombre.

" La facon de charger les navires est de même un grand inconvénient qui fait périr plusieurs bâtimens, et cause de grands pertes. Quand le navire est en charge, alors, faute de connoître l'estivage des marchandises de volume, ils accumulent, sans ordre et sans ménagement, tout ce que les chargeurs apportent ; et, pour gagner un fort nolis, on charge souvent le bâtiment outre mesure, et même presque jusqu'au milieu du mât, de marchandises légères ; de sorte que le vaisseau surchargé perd son assiette et son équilibre, et par conséquent se trouve souvent exposé à renverser et à périr au milieu de la mer, mais très communément surtout à faire jet. Dans le dernier cas, il n'y a ni avarie ni répartition à espérer, et les propriétaires des marchandises *qui* se sont trouvées à portée d'être jetées à la mer, essuient toute la perte, sans aucun espoir de dédommagement.

" L'on pourroit remédier aux inconvéniens qui procedent de l'ignorance des navigateurs, en donnant aux reïs ou patrons des bâtimens que l'on noliseroit,

des pilotes Français, que ces patrons accepteroient avec grand plaisir; alors ces pilotes prendroient, bientôt une connoissance exact de la Mer Noire, découvriroient certainement bien des ports, des plages ou des rades qui sont peut-être excellens et inconnus aux gens du pays; ils éviteroient par de meilleures manœuvres un nombre infini de dangers; ils prendroient aussi, pour charger les bâtimens, les précautions et les mesures convenables; et il ne seroit peut-être pas impossible d'enseigner aux patrons Turcs la manière de bien arrimer les marchandises.

" L'on s'est donné des mouvemens infinis dans différens temps, pour obtenir de la Porte la liberté de la navigation dans la Mer Noire. M. Le Marquis de Villeneuve avoit eu la permission d'y faire naviguer deux tartanes, permission dont on n'a jamais pu profiter, parce qu'elle fut immédiatement rêvoquée.

" Pendant qu'Ali-Pacha-Hekim-Oglou étoit gouverneur à Trébisonde, les Ragusais engagèrent ce pacha, par le canal de son médecin, à demander pour eux ce privilége un ministère Ottoman, qui étoit sur le point de le leur accorder; mais ils furent découverts et croisés par des ministres étrangers, qui firent bientôt echouer leur négociation.

" On ne voudroit pas assurer que nous trouvassions grand avantage à introduire nos bâtimens dans la Mer Noire. C'est un point qui puroît mériter d'être bien réfléchir. On ose croire qu'il vaudroit mieux se servir des bâtimens du pays, tant parce qu'ils navigueroient à meilleur marché que les nôtres, que parce que cela ne feroit pas un trop grand éclat. L'apparition d'un pavillion Chrétien dans cette mer, et la concurrence des autres étrangers, qui ne manqueroient pas de solliciter, et même, s'il le fallait, d'acheter à grand frais le même privilége, feroit augmenter tout d'un coup le prix des marchandises de sortie, et tomber celui, des marchandises d'entrée; et l'on seroit bientôt privé de tous les profits de ce commerce.

" D'après tout ceci, l'on doit présumer que la France, pour conserver son

commerce du Levant, et pour l'augmenter par celui de la Mer Noire, ne permettra jamais que l'empire Turc soit envahi ni démembré, ni que l'on chasse les princes Ottomans de leur trône, parce qu'alors notre commerce du Levant seroit entierement ruiné ou tout au moins réduit à très-peu de chose."

N. B. To this may be added, the second and third articles of the last Treaty of Peace between France and Turkey.

" II. Les traités ou capitulations qui, avant l'époque de la guerre, determinoient respectivement les rapports de toute espèce qui existoient entre les deux puissances, sont en entier renouvelés.

" En conséquence de ce renouvellement, et en exécution des articles des anciennes capitulations, en vertu desquels les Français ont le droit de jouir dans les Etats de la Sublime Porte de tous les avantages qui ont été accordés à d'autres puissances, la Sublime Porte consent à ce que les vaisseaux du commerce Français portant pavillon Français, jouissent désormais, sans aucune contestation, du droit d'entrer et de naviguer librement dans la Mer Noire.

" La Sublime Port consent, de plus, à ce que les dits vaisseaux Français, à leur entrée et à leur sortie de cette mer, et pour tout ce qui peut favoriser leur libre navigation, soient entièrement assimilés aux vaisseaux marchands des nations qui naviguent dans la Mer Noire, &c.

" III. La République Française jouira dans les pays Ottomans qui bordent ou avoisinent la Mer Noire, tant pour son commerce que pour les agens et commissaires des relations commerciales qui pourront être établis dans les lieux où les besoins du commerce Français rendront cet établissement nécessaire, des mêmes droits, priviléges et prérogatives dont la France jouissoit avant la guerre, *dans les autres parties des etats* de la Sublime Porte, en vertu des anciennes capitulations."

A VIEW

OF THE

MERCHANDISE IMPORTED FROM CHRISTENDOM AND AMERICA,

INTO THE

PORT OF SMYRNA,

Between the 15th March 1809 and the 31st August 1810;

Being the Cargoes of 117 Vessels.

564 Casks Refined Sugar.
1617 Casks Pewter-ware.
309 Ingots Pewter.
995 Casks Coffee.
18814 Bags Coffee.
358 Bags Almonds.
292 Casks Cochineal.
1260 Casks Cochineal.
2639 Cases Steel.
3256 Ingots Lead.
5741 Cases clayed Sugar.
602 Casks Muscovado Sugar.
2968 Sacks Pease.
624 Casks Seeds.
1800 Cases Tin-plate.
1759 Bales Paper.
22 Casks Wax.
979 *Coaffes et B'qué Tayau.*
201 Bundles Jesuits' Bark.
25 Casks Red Lead.
122 Puncheons Rum.
825 Serroons } Indigo.
218 Cases }
1292 Bales Merchandise.
5741 Quintals Sulphur.
189 Cases } Cinnamon.
2494 Packets }
17 Casks Cloves.
3 Cases Musk.
575 Bags Ginger.

83 Casks Wire.
1622 Bars Iron.
2613 Cakes } *Luzain.*
66 Casks }
1836 Pieces Fustic.
245 Packages Manufactures.
219 Ditto Muslins.
164 Ditto Indianas.
114 Ditto Handkerchiefs.
182 Ditto Millinery.
50 Ditto Silk Manufactures.
8 Cases *Aisacées.*
291 Packages Shawls.
170 Bales Cloth.
248 Cases Red Caps.
30 Cases Nankins.
22 Cases Hats.
20 Tons Nigeragowood.
17 Cases Cambric.
20 Cases Satins.
729 Loads Mocha Coffee.
104 Cases Tobacco.
763 Bags Pimento.
31 Bags Pepper.
62 Boxes Tea.
3 Cases Garde Vin Bottles.
7 Cases Watches and Time-keepers.
6 Cases Wine.
29 Casks Red Tartar.
18 Cases Velvet.
561 Bales English Cotton Yarn.
67 Tons } Logwood.
6789 Pieces }
8 Cases Coral.
1 Ditto Ivory Toys.
10 Bales Packthread.
56 Barrels *Rocaw*
2 Cases Cards.
19 Ditto *Mannes.*
1 Ditto Gauze Bologne.
4 Ditto *Sublimate.*
4 Ditto Liqueurs.
100 Bundles Canes and Sticks.
250 Casks Snuff.
7 Cases *Laitrine.*
78 Cases Sundries.
99 Cases Flint Glass.
68 Cases Panes of Glass.
57 Casks Porter.
360 Paving Stones of Malta.
206 Cases Oil of Vitriol.
300 Barrels Powder.
197 Kegs Butter.
50 Cases Cheese.
140 Casks Potatoes.

25 Barrels Flour.
73 Casks Verdigris.
350 Quintals Dye-woods.
32 Bundles Iron-hoops.
284 Iron Plates.
21 Cases Saltpetre.
855 Bundles Saltfish.
29 Dozen Chairs.
14 Elephants' Teeth.
346 Pieces Canvas.
18 Cases Cordage.
745 Baskets.
14062 Deals.
10 Cases Glue.
8 Cases Porcelain
18 Casks *Cenobre.*
14 Cases Drugs.

FINIS.

DIRECTIONS TO THE BINDER.

Plate I. Ruins of Agrigentum.....*to front the Title.*
II. Bathi Castle.....*Page* 153.

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